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THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH 2009

TRAFFIC QUEUES FROM ST ATHAN ALL THE WAY TO THE VALE SHOWGROUND

Thousands flock to Fonmon for the 'fabulous' show

– and even the sun comes out!

ABOVE: Two in hand.

RIGHT: "I love ewe"...

THIS year's Vale Show was off to a flying start when The GEM arrived early yesterday (Wednesday).

The crowds were already flocking in, and they just kept on coming as they took advantage of the fine weather.

Early arrivals (some of whom are pictured above) were young girls and boys preparing their calves, cows or sheep to be shown in the competition, which this year was more keenly-contested than ever.

(SEE PAGE 14 FOR A REPORT, AND MORE PHOTOGRAPHS BY GLYN EVANS).

COWBRIDGE MAN'S TRIATHLON TO HELP HOMELESS CHARITY

A COWBRIDGE man recently tackled the Gower Triathlon to raise cash for a Welsh charity that, at the moment, is the poor relation of its English counterpart.

Chris Dennis took up the triathlon two years ago, and he entered the sea for a 750-metre sea swim, a 24km cycle ride and a five-km run.

Chris was raising money for the Street Football Wales charity, which uses five-a-side football to involve people who are homeless or socially excluded.

Chris told The GEM: "What really surprised me about this charity was how poorly funded it is compared to its English equivalent, which has an income through sponsorship of more than £1 million.

"In comparison, Wales is really struggling."

Although the charity is called Street Football Wales, matches are played on proper five-a-side all-weather surfaces. This 'homeless football' has been going on in Wales for the past five years in one format or another.

The highlight of the project is to send a team to the 'Homeless World Cup' which this year takes place in Milan, in partnership with the Big Issue Cymru.

Chris has found the triathlon hard work, but also very rewarding. He did swim competitively when younger, and cycled for fun, but never liked running!

Running is still his "weak link", but he was delighted to cut almost half an hour off his time this year compared to last!

It is not easy for Chris to clear his diary for the training, as he works in Caerphilly and then has to do his share of looking after young James (aged three-and-a-half), and five-month-old Chloe.

He does, however, have the full support of his wife Julie in his fundraising efforts.

Yesterday, after The GEM went to press, Chris handed over a cheque for more than £200 to the homeless squad at a training session. Chris said: "They have only just managed to get the remaining funds needed to send a team to Milan for the Homeless World Cup, which kicks off on September 7.

"Street Football Wales is a great charity and it would be good to give the team the send off they deserve."

More information on how to support the charity can be found on www.homelessworldcup.org/groups/wales

ABOVE: Chris Dennis with wife Julie and their children, James and baby Chloe.

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Defence college boost as £31m contract is signed

The Metrix consortium is pointing to a new contract signed with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as proof that the Defence Technical College (DTC) development is still on course.

A £31m contract, part of the Defence Training Review (DTR) Package One PFI project, has been signed, and it will see the Metrix consortium, the preferred bidder for the project, take the first steps toward providing improvements to the UK Armed Forces' technical trade training.

The Early Training Transformation (ETT) contract is a package of work designed to introduce improvements to key elements of the Armed Forces' specialist training programmes.

Vale MP John Smith said: "This is great news for the area and Wales.

"This latest news follows the move to the St. Athan site of the MoD team which will manage the project, the planning submission for the St Athan project to the local planning authority in May, and the MoD's recent decision to provide nearly £43 million to underwrite the cost of essential works linked to the Defence Technical College."

Metrix will use Raytheon, a principal member of the Metrix consortium and a leading US technology company specialising in defence, homeland security and global training services, as the main sub-contractor to do the work in this area of the project.

A Metrix spokesman said: "Training Transformation is a vital part of delivering the DTR Package One project.

"It involves rigorous analysis of current training, against what is known as MoD's 'Operational Performance Statement', or the standard a service person must be capable of achieving in their operational role."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

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Summer Sounds was 'amazing'

I AM so proud to have played a very small part in the Summer Sounds week.

It has been amazing – from Christian rock bands, to opera, to male voice choirs, youngsters plugging in and playing, to an absolutely fantastic open air concert all day Sunday.

I'm sure I speak for everyone who listened to the different events, that it was wonderful. The best thing for me was that all ages, young and old, got together with no trouble at all and just enjoyed the music.

A huge thanks must go to the committee, just a handful of dedicated people, for all their hard work.

So, to Dave, Terri, Sarah, Phil, Derek and everyone else who helped, thank you so much, I'm already looking forward to next year!

Coun Ann Matthews, Llantwit Major

For or against airport road?

IT was no surprise to read another letter from the Conservatives flip-flopping on transport in the Vale.

Where do they stand on the airport relief road? After reading their regional Assembly Member's latest letter to the newspaper, I don't have a clue.

It's time for the Tories to say what they think. When they speak to residents from Wenvoe and Pendoylan they are against the road. When they speak to others they're in favour.

Which is it? For or against?

It's just more of the same from the Tories who for decades have just tried to be all things to all people, rather than showing some backbone. No wonder people are disillusioned with their politics.

The Plaid-driven Welsh government took a tough decision; instead of spending a billion pounds on a road in Gwent, we decided to invest in improvements to Five Mile Lane and public transport links here in the Vale, improving the train service and introducing a new bus service to the airport.

Chris Franks,
Plaid Cymru AM for South Wales Central

School to celebrate 50th anniversary

THE Barry Comprehensive School will be celebrating its 50th anniversary at the Port Road site next year.

There will be an open day at the school on Friday, June 11, 2010, followed by an event on June 12, at 2pm.

Invitations are extended to all former pupils and staff who have been associated with the school from 1960 onwards.

Information can be found on *www.friendsreunited.com – Barry Comprehensive School – Reunions,* where interest can be registered – or by sending an email to *barryschoolreunion@gmail.com*

We hope you can join us.

David Swallow
(Headteacher)

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

The Vale has had 58 years without a woman as MP!

LABOUR'S women-only shortlists are a solution, not a problem. As a member of the Labour Party, and one who has absolutely no wish whatsoever to remain anonymous, I find it a very positive step that for the first time since 1951, the former Barry constituency will have a female Labour candidate.

The voters of Barry returned Dorothy Rees as the first south-east Wales woman MP in history in 1950. She became one of the most notable figures in Welsh Labour politics and was made a Dame of the British Empire.

Dorothy Rees was required to step forward only when there was a shortage of male candidates due to post war conscription, and 58 years is a long time to wait. Apparently no woman has ever been good enough 'on merit' to be Dorothy's successor.

This would seem to highlight why the current practice of all women shortlists is wholly justified in its own right.

However, the reasons they are the best possible solution in the present day go a little deeper than that.

For the Labour Party to be faithful to its ideals, it must reflect society as it now is structured, not how it once was or how some would prefer it to be.

Labour Party democracy has been modernised and made fully accountable to the membership more recently – but, unfortunately, changing the paperwork does not overnight put right 58 years of inadequacies. That is why the agreed, but perhaps less than ideal, temporary measure of all-women short lists are necessary.

Philip Rapier, Penarth

Women-only shortlist is not a new idea

REGARDING the letter from J Evans (July 30 issue), where she bemoans the announcement by the Labour Party that only women are wanted on its shortlist of candidates for parliamentary candidates, I should like to point out that this is nothing new.

'Women-only' shortlists have been Labour policy for several years, ever since a powerful lobby of matriarchs in the party forced the issue through.

It may have seemed like a good vote-winning exercise to the rest of the party, who then meekly stood to one side to let it run its course. They probably thought that the whole issue would just fizzle out, just like all the other crack-pot ideas.

However, they reckoned without the determination of those matriarchs, who were hell-bent on women-only shortlists, even if it meant that the electorate would be denied the most basic element in a democracy – free and fair elections.

How can we condemn the likes of Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe for the election shams that he presides over, when the Labour Party is guilty of the same offence? And where will it stop?

There's only one way to halt this slow drift and that is to comprehensively vote them out.

Kevin Granville,
Peterston Super Ely

'Name and shame Cowbridge dog poo offenders...'

IT was a beautiful sunny summer Sunday morning as I walked towards the park in Cowbridge, but the moment was shattered when I came across a huge dollop of fresh dog poo deposited on the grass in a place where children walk.

Our town is blighted by thoughtless dog owners who allow their animals to defecate in public places, especially on the playing fields and public walkways.

However, by far the worst offence occurs along Broadway, where dog poo can regularly be found on the pavement in front of Y Bont Faen School and Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.

What type of person would allow their dog to mess in front of a school where children will coat their shoes in it and possibly have it transferred to their hands? Do these people have a conscience?

Perhaps the culprits are reading this newspaper and may not realise what a disgusting job it is to have to clean poo-encrusted trainers and shoes for a small child.

Their neighbours must know who they are. Perhaps it is time to name and shame individuals in our community who allow their dogs to foul our town.

Mrs M Lowe,
Llanblethian

Sympathy for the Cambrian residents

IN response to the article on Cambrian residents in The GEM on July 30, I think that having been a council resident for several years, it is hard to believe that they have suddenly developed a caring attitude, and are genuinely concerned about the health and safety of Cambrian residents.

The council was never concerned about the health and safety of myself and my elderly neighbours when it came to anti-social behaviour and other housing issues.

B Franklin, Barry

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL AUGUST 27)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
20 Thur	07.38	14.7	19.53	15.1
21 Fri	08.23	15.2	20.34	15.4
22 Sat	09.09	15.3	21.16	15.5
23 Sun	09.51	15.2	21.59	15.3
24 Mon	10.33	14.9	22.39	14.8
25 Tues	11.08	14.3	23.23	14.1
26 Wed	11.54	13.5	23.57	13.2
27 Thur			12.15	12.8

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FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0800 800500.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

Citizens Advice: At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Office opening times vary.Telephone 0845 120 3756 between 10am and noon for details). Also at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, 9.30am - 11.30am (weekdays).*Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999. **Gas** - Gas emergency number 0800 111999. Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130. Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 709105. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline - 02920 673000.

To report a fly tipping incident - 02920 673000.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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Teenager is chosen from 700 hopefuls!

Marla (14) realises a dream – to dance at Sadler's Wells

by TIM CHAPMAN

A TEENAGE dancer from Cowbridge has won an audition to join the company of the National Youth Ballet of Great Britain and will perform at the world famous Sadler's Wells.

Marla Ellis, aged 14, was one of 115 young dancers selected at a final audition casting in London out of more than 700 hopefuls.

In the last year Marla has attended the Arts Educational School in Tring after her parents Helen and Mark, along with the people of Cowbridge, managed to raise £25,000 in tuition fees.

Fundraising included a special night at the Duke of Wellington and Marla's mother Helen selling her vintage VW camper van!

That faith in Marla seems to have been justified.

She will perform at Sadler's Wells on September 6, but before that will appear at The Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells from August 27 - 29.

Helen told The GEM: "Marla has gone to a special training school for 10 days to prepare herself for what is ahead.

"Going to Tring has been a great experience for her – it has helped her dancing skills, her organisational ability and her independence.

"Mark and I are going to watch her perform at the theatre in Tunbridge Wells."

Among the pieces the company will perform are Cinderella, Colour Crazy, Ship Ahoy, Fuego Del Alma, Soldiers Three, and Jiggery Pokery.

ABOVE:
Marla Ellis will dance at the world famous Sadler's Wells in three weeks time.

Due to a lack of further funds Marla is unable to continue at Tring, and will attend Cowbridge Comprehensive School from September.

To have continued at Tring for another two years would have cost the family another £50,000.

Helen said: "There are more opportunities for funding when Marla is 16, and she is keen to continue developing her ballet in the meantime by going to workshops and summer schools."

Barbecue, toilet paper and human faeces!

Dog walkers' disgust at abandoned rubbish

ANIMAL lovers from Cowbridge who like to take their dogs for an early morning run were left disgusted this week when, on one pathway at Stalling Down, they came across discarded rubbish, the ashes of a barbecue, toilet paper and human faeces!

Local residents Sue and David Thomas, who regularly take their dogs, Tess and Kelly, to the picturesque area were amazed by what they saw early on Tuesday morning, August 18.

Sue said: "Somebody had obviously been up in a car because you could see tyre tracks to the site of the rubbish.

"Whoever was responsible had left a burnt out barbecue, along with toilet paper strewn over the grass and human faeces.

"I came up at 4.30pm the previous day and there was nothing, so it must have been done late that night."

Fellow dog walker Margaret Hobbs said it was the second time she had cleared up rubbish on Stalling Down.

"It is sad that people can't take their rubbish away.

"I have now picked up toilet paper, nappy wipes, glass bottles, an empty vodka bottle and a Coca Cola bottle.

"This is a beautiful spot and we want to keep it that way."

Another animal lover, Julie Morgan, said: "A gang of us meet up at the same time most mornings.

"To come across rubbish and human faeces is disgusting.

"My dog Jodie rolled in it so I had to give her a bath and clean her collar when I got home.

ABOVE:
Margaret Hobbs and Sue Thomas were among a group of dog walkers who came across some rubbish, with some rather nasty surprises, at Stalling Down.

"What sort of people do this?"

The regulars at Stalling Down can only speculate about those responsible, but suspect they were local people because people from outside the area would not be aware of the location, and rubbish has been left before.

Trader appeals after shop theft

A COWBRIDGE antique dealer is appealing for help from the public after a valuable garden patio set was stolen in broad daylight from his shop.

John Williams has traded at Cowbridge Antique Centre in Eastgate for some time, although he is the process of moving across the road, now that the centre is closing.

He told The GEM: "The patio set was in an alleyway alongside the building, behind a gate.

"The table featured Moroccan mosaic tiles in yellow and brown, and it was round and just over three feet in diameter. It had a steel base and four chairs in metallic beige."

Mr Williams said that on Monday, August 9, two women were seen putting the patio set into a red car, sometime between 11am and 12 noon.

He estimates that the patio set was worth around £1,000, and is hoping that the public may be able to help.

He said: "If anyone saw anything that day, or if they have been offered a similar patio set, or if they have any information, could they call Cowbridge police on 01656 655555."

Churches receive £100,000 boost

ABOVE:
Jane Hutt at Welsh St Donats Church.

AS well as £100,000 for Cowbridge United Free Church in the Vale of Glamorgan, Welsh St Donat's Parish Church has received a grant of £35,700 for vital repairs.

Vale AM, Jane Hutt visited Welsh St Donat's Parish Church to meet PCC chairman, Mr Samuel, and welcome this new grant which will make a great difference to the church's maintenance and refurbishment.

She said: "Heritage Lottery repair grants are vital for these Vale Churches."

DEFENCE COLLEGE WILL TRANSFORM TRAINING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

They added: "It also involves harmonising training across all three Services, as well as promoting the application of the latest training methods and media, such as interactive computer-based courseware, while preserving essential traditional training elements."

"A wide reaching and complex training transformation programme has always been an essential element of the project."

Commenting on the contract, Dr David Anderson, the managing director of Metrix Training, the training delivery arm of the Metrix consortium, said: "Metrix is delighted to be awarded the ETT contract.

"It is a significant vote of confidence from the MoD in the consortium's ability to begin to introduce improvements to training delivery."

He added: "The colleges which today deliver vitally important specialist training for the UK Armed Forces offer more than a thousand different courses each year.

"One thing they all have in common is that they turn out some of the world's best trained military personnel.

"This one fact must be at the forefront of the minds of the Metrix training design teams as they work on enhancing the courses."

Brigadier Tony Harking, the leader of the Integrated Project Team (IPT), the team which manages the DTR Package One project, said: "In order to be ready for the move to St Athan in 2014, it is necessary to undertake a degree of Training Transformation early, hence ETT.

"ETT will provide both parties with greater confidence that the process is successful when applied to British Forces technical training."

David Appel, the director in charge of the Raytheon team working on the ETT project said that transformation of defence training will bring benefits to the trainees, the instructors, the colleges, and the Front Line Commands.

Metrix CEO Jim Morrison, said: "The ETT contract is tremendous news. It demonstrates the Government's commitment to the St. Athan project."

A delighted John Smith said: "I want people and businesses here in the Vale and Wales to benefit the most from this project over the next 25 to 30 years.

"That's why I will continue to work hard to maximize the benefits for local people and businesses," the Vale MP added.

Choral society starts after summer break

COWBRIDGE Choral Society will meet after the summer break on Thursday, September 3.

Membership is open to all who enjoy choral singing and can promise a regular commitment. The ability to read music would be an advantage, but not essential.

The society rehearses weekly at the Cowbridge United Free Church (opposite the Police Station) on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm-9.30pm.

A choir spokeswoman said: "We look forward to seeing budding choristers on that evening, while those not available can join us on a further Thursday. As well as welcoming ladies, we are particularly short of men for the tenor and bass sections. The choir has a varied repertoire to suit most tastes."

The choir is rehearsing for Handel's *Messiah*, which will be performed with Pontypridd, Mountain Ash and Nelson District Choral societies on Saturday, October 10 at 7pm in the Rhondda Fach Sports Centre, Tylorstown, in aid of Ty Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

Tickets (£7.50) available from Rhondda Fach Sports Centre (01443 756242) and Pontypridd Museum (01443 490748).

Cowbridge Choral Society's concert for Christmas will be held in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, on Saturday, December 12.

For further information, contact chairman Robert Oldham on 01656 796945, or secretary Terry Dunsworth on 01446 773568.

CAROLE GOLDEN

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
ISAIAH CH55 V6&7 *(Cowbridge Christian Fellowship)*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Valeways walks

THERE will be a walk on Tuesday, August 25 at 1.30pm from the Visitor Centre, Cosmeston Country Park on the Cosmeston country trail.

For further information, call Valeways 01446 749000. Sorry no dogs.

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THE GEM'S POLITICAL POLL TRANSFORMED – IN JUST 24 HOURS!

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE GEM's political poll – asking what people thought of the Labour Party decision to choose their next Vale of Glamorgan Parliamentary candidate from a 'women only' short-list – was transformed in just 24 hours after we published it last week.

It seems that conscience-stricken men have rushed to respond to our digital poll, all saying that they do not resent being excluded from the short list of potential candidates who will stand to replace John Smith MP, who is standing down for health reasons.

To recap, at the start of the month, The GEM's digital edition invited readers to respond to the 'women only' issue. We gave readers four options.

'I am female and I approve'; 'I am female and I do not approve'; 'I am male and I approve', and 'I am male and I do not approve'.

When we went to press on Wednesday (August 12), the number of votes that had been cast was not big – a total of 68 – and we certainly did not claim any great statistical significance.

However, the runaway majority, at 60 per cent of the vote, were male voters saying that they did not approve.

Indeed, 22 per cent of the female voters also did not approve. That left a mere 18 per cent who were content (10 per cent male, eight per cent female).

So, what happened after The GEM hit the streets on Thursday morning?

Well, by noon on Friday, there had been a rush of votes, and suddenly the biggest group of voters were men who DID approve.

The total of votes cast had jumped to 147, and now there were 61 votes (41 per cent) from males who said they were content. On Wednesday, remember, there had been just seven votes registered.

Men who disapproved had been pushed down to 35 per cent. The pattern among female voters had changed very little, with six per cent approving, and 18 per cent disapproving.

The GEM is reluctant to draw any conclusions from this voting pattern. There is, we acknowledge, nothing to stop supporters of rival political parties, for example, voting to make mischief.

Consequently, we suspended the poll on Monday at noon.

Much-coveted Green Pennant is awarded to the Physic Garden

COWBRIDGE Physic Garden now shares a unique distinction with the country's finest parks – after receiving a coveted Green Pennant Award from the environmental charity, Keep Britain Tidy.

The award was presented to Jo Homfray, a garden trustee, at the Royal Welsh Show and comes just over two years after the garden was first opened to the public.

Green Pennant Awards recognise and reward the best community run enterprises in the country, and Cowbridge Physic Garden stood out after impressing the judges with its excellence and presentation as a well-managed space, for its signage, and especially for the dedication of local volunteers who look after it.

This year is a milestone, as the number of Green Flag and Green Pennant Award winners has passed 1,000 for the first time.

LEFT: Mrs Jo Homfray receives the Green Pennant award from Mr John Lloyd Jones, chairman of the Countryside Council for Wales.

Mr John Lloyd Jones, chair of the Countryside Council for Wales, presented the Green Pennant to Mrs Homfray at the Royal Welsh Show.

She said later: "This is a considerable distinction for Cowbridge Physic Garden, which is still in its infancy but maturing fast and drawing enormous appreciation from those who visit it.

"The garden has developed superbly and is now looking at its very best. We're all delighted with it and especially proud of our dedicated volunteers, who do so much to maintain its presentational excellence."

Cowbridge girls come home for church charity concert

A CLASSICAL music concert will be held at Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge on Saturday, September 12, with all proceeds going towards Save the Children.

LEFT: Samantha Edwards.

Performers on the evening will include Cowbridge cellist Mary Elliott, who will be joined by violinist David McCarroll from California, and English pianist Katherine Freeman.

Graduates of the Yehudi Menuhin School, Royal Academy of Music and New England Conservatory in Boston, these talented young musicians have performed as soloists around the globe. The concert will include works by Handel, Saint Saens, Ysaye and Rachmaninov.

Local cellist Mary Elliott (24) has performed as a soloist throughout the UK in venues such as the Purcell Room, St Martin in the Field, Mercers Hall, Brangwyn Hall and has given concerts in France, Switzerland, Tunisia, Russia, the United States and Thailand, for the Thai royal family.

She is currently studying for a master's degree at the Conservatoire de Lausanne in Switzerland. Together with the other musicians, she will be performing at local care homes in the run-up to the concert.

She said: "The idea for the concert came when I met up with my friend Samantha Edwards who works as a music consultant in London, and has helped organise the concert.

"Both of us are from the same village and attended Y Bont Faen and Llansannor primary schools, and later Howell's School in Cardiff together."

The event also aims to encourage the involvement of local school-children. Before the end of the summer term, pupils from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, St Bride's Major, St David's, Llansannor and Llanharry and Gwenfo primary schools and Howell's Junior school listened to music from the concert programme and did drawings of what the music represented to them.

Mary Elliott.

The project was a great success, with more than 300 drawings submitted. A selection will be printed in the concert programme, with others included on the website at *www.cowbridgecharityconcert.eurom.tv* and displayed at the concert in Holy Cross Church.

Tickets cost £8 (to include a glass of wine), and are available from Blushbaby, Quills, Xantippe, W G Davies, Cowbridge Comprehensive School and Howell's School, Llandaff.

YOUR ONLINE GEM - WWW. COWBRIDGE-TODAY.CO.UK

AGM sees new officials elected at Maendy YFC

MAENDY Young Farmers Club recently held its AGM, appointing new club officials for the forthcoming year.

Natalie Lewis has taken over as chairman, with Hannah Lewis as vice-chairman, together with Mared Williams as secretary and Victoria Shervington and Ieuan Rosser as treasurers. Jayne Brace was re-elected as president.

Ideas and plans for the year ahead were discussed with enthusiasm, and this promises to be another action-packed calendar, especially as 2009/10 will celebrate 70 years of the club.

Are you a past member of Maendy YFC? If so, please get in contact with the club as they would love you to be part of the celebrations.

The club's annual dinner and dance is being held on September 12 at The Countryman Inn, Llantrisant. Tickets are £23 and are available now. Please contact the club phone on 07935 585041.

New members are always welcome to join our ongoing success. A new members evening will be held in September, further details to follow.

HL

New team at the Cross Inn

ABOVE: Liam (left) and Arthur O'Leary.

A NEW team has taken over the Cross Inn, Llanblethian, and the duo recently invited local residents to the pub to outline their plans for the future.

The new owners are father and son, Arthur and Liam O'Leary from Barry.

Almost 40 villagers came along to hear Mr O'Leary outline their plans for improvements, to the village pub, by way of new decor, furnishings, drinks, food and facilities.

Mr O'Leary and his son have more than 26 years experience in operating free house community pub services.

Final act for local mayor

A CHEQUE for £250 has been handed over by former Llantwit Mayor Molly Lane as the last act of her year of office.

The cheque was presented to Dr Bob Bevington of the British Heart Foundation, which Coun Lane designated as her chosen charity for the year.

The money was raised at a jazz evening she held in the Llantonian Hall, and it will be used to buy two defibrillators – one for Cowbridge and one for Llantwit.

The charity has matchfunded her money, and she hopes that they will pay for a climate-controlled box to go in the town, in which the defibrillator will be stored.

Llantwit Major church takes another step on road to Galilee Chapel dream

ABOVE: Jane Hutt and church members.

VALE AM Jane Hutt has welcomed the award of a grant of £187,500 to a Llantwit Major church.

The AM visited St Illtud's Church to discuss the plans for the adaptation of the Galilee Chapel as a new home for the important collection of Celtic Christian Stones presently housed in the church.

The Heritage Lottery funding has been awarded to the Rectorial Benefice of Llantwit Major to help towards the development of the whole project, which will enable the church to fully promote and show the remarkable chapel and stone collection to visitors, tourists, schools and the wider world.

Ms Hutt said: "On my visit to meet the support group committed to develop this important restoration of Galilee Chapel, I learned about the history of St Illtud's church.

"Professor John Davies has described the St Illtud's monastery, which was founded by Illtud in about 500 AD, as the 'University of the Celtic Stones'.

"St Illtud was one of the earliest and most important of the Celtic saints and I was impressed with the dedication of the church and local people to restoring the Galilee Chapel to provide a home for these stones dating, which date back to the 8th Century.

"I understand that St Illtud's is a major attraction for visitors and the latest development will help create a religious and historic centre. The Heritage Lottery Fund has provided a major boost to this project, of vital significance in the Vale and Wales as a whole."

Fundraising for the project continues. A spokesman for the church said that the Lottery money was very welcome.

Council collects almost £1 million from builders

THE Vale Council is getting better at squeezing financial contributions out of developers – and they have received almost £1 million in the last financial year.

The claim was made at a recent meeting of the Vale Council's community liaison committee.

The Vale Council has the power, under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, to ask developers for cash that the council can then spend in a number of ways – from highways to public art.

The council's community liaison committee was addressed by Victoria Abraham, the council's principal development officer, who was appointed in April 2007.

She said that a number of steps had been taken to improve the council's ability to negotiate and implement planning obligations.

She reported that, in the 12 months between April 2008 and March 2009, 23 planning permissions had been issued which had been subject to Section 106 legal agreements.

The value of the financial contributions from these 23 legal agreements was £940,555.09.

This was described as a "...significant increase in the number and value of Section 106 agreements" compared with the previous year.

The cash promised to the Vale Council has been allocated as follows:·

- Public art - £69,742.25.
- Sustainable transport facilities - £379,981.84.
- Traffic / highway works - £1,975.
- Public open space - £198,500.
- Community facilities - £65,356.
- Town centre improvements - £200,000.
- Public realm works - £25,000.

The council was already holding Section 106 cash that had not yet been spent by the end of March 2009, and the new cash collected boosted this fund to £1,884,000.

Over the years, councils often find it takes quite some time to receive the promised section 106 cash, and it can also take some time to spend it in the manner decided.

Because of this, the Section 106 officer was reviewing all historic agreements to ensure that developers had complied with their obligations and, where they had not, pursue them for compliance.

The committee was told that this had recently led to the receipt of £150,000 from Marks and Spencer for public transport serving Culverhouse Cross.

It had also involved pursuit of land transfers – such as the nature reserve at Rhoose Point – that was ongoing.

Rhys is cream of the crop!

AWARD-WINNING Bridgend dairy farmer Rhys Lougher celebrated a notable double at the recent Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells.

Rhys, aged 28, who runs Ty Tanglwyst Dairy at Pyle entered the milk and cream competitions at the famous show for the first time and came away with the top two prizes in both classes.

He told The GEM: "We are chuffed to bits to take first and second in both the milk and cream competitions because there are a lot of very good dairies around Wales.

"It's a reward for all the hard work put in by the staff in the dairy and by our herd of cows."

Rhys only started bottling milk on the family farm three years ago.

Since the recent closure of Dairy Farmers of Britain dairy in Bridgend, he has recruited six more part-time staff, taking his dairy workforce to 13.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llangan wedding

THE wedding of Miss Julia Dunn of Llangan and Mr Jason Jones Hughes took place at St Canna's, Llangan on Saturday, August 15.

The bride, in a beautiful full length gown, was attended by her sister Chloe, and brother of the groom, Brecon, performed his duty as best man.

Due to the closeness of the church to the bride's home, the wedding party was able to walk to St Canna's.

Friends and members of the family had travelled from many parts of the world to attend the celebration.

The reception was held in a marquee in the garden of the bride's home.

Julia's grandmother arranged the beautiful flowers in the church and the officiating clergy was Rev Canon Val Hamer.

Unclean road

ON Saturday, August 15, I travelled along the Pencoed-Pentre Meurig road, in the vicinity of Ruthin chapel.

The road in question was in a disgusting state, with something that looked like mud which had come off a tractor and trailer.

My sympathy was with a local resident who, on the following day, was endeavouring to clean the area near his home which, unfortunately, is in close proximity to the field where the tractor had come out onto the road.

I am fully aware certain work has to be carried out on farms, but please have a little more consideration for the non-farming community!

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

Llancarfan show

A REMINDER that all entry forms have to be given in to Ann Ferris (01446 781350) by Friday, August 21.

Entry forms and exhibits can also be taken to the community hall in Llancarfan between 6.30pm-8.30pm on Friday. Exhibits only can be staged on Saturday from 9am-10.30am.

The Hall will be open to the public again at 2pm and the cups will be presented at 3pm.

Petanque

ON Sunday, August 23 at 1.45pm, the Edmondes Arms in Cowbridge is challenging teams from Llancarfan and Llanbethery at the Piste in Llancarfan.

Teams of three are very welcome. Please bring your own refreshments.

AGE CONCERN INTRODUCES NEW ADVOCACY SERVICE

AGE CONCERN is continuing its work in the western Vale and offers a number of services to older people in the community.

The charity is based in their centre at Llantwit Major, but they cover Cowbridge and all the communities between St Athan and Ewenny.

A new service now available locally is advocacy and this is run by Ana Phillips, who has now moved into the office.

She explained that advocacy was a service which helped people over 60 who have difficulty accessing services, or individuals who are not in a strong position to exercise their rights.

"Advocacy is identifying with a person's views and concerns and then representing them," she added.

Ana is happy to visit people at home if they prefer that to coming into the office – or if they are unable to visit the office for health or other reasons.

However, advocacy is not a legal service and deals with issues involved with social services, care, housing, health and the like.

The centre has a separate session twice a month on welfare rights which people can also attend.

The centre in Llantwit organises a highly successful Good Neighbours scheme, whereby a team of volunteers visit elderly people to either take them out to go shopping or, if they are unable to go out, they will go and do their shopping and bring it back.

Kathryn Coupland, who is the scheme co-ordinator, said that often it's about something as simple as popping in for a chat and a cup of tea.

"The aim is to make people feel less isolated and lonely. We also run a transport scheme to take people for hospital appointments and that's very popular.

"We do make a small charge, but our volunteer drivers are wonderful – they often wait in the hospital with the patient until they have been treated. Our clients really value that service."

The Welfare Rights service offers people a benefits check to make sure that they are receiving everything they are entitled to. It is totally confidential and can be done at home if preferred.

Kath pointed out that while some benefits are means-tested, others are not, including those connected with disability, so it would be worthwhile people checking them out.

She said that the re-opening of the Llantwit Major Citizens Advice Bureau meant that the two organisations provide complementary services to the community.

CAB deal with people of all ages, whereas Age Concern is for the over-60s.

However, the charity also promotes a healthy lifestyle for those aged 50 and over through its 'Ageing Well' programme, which is based at the Llantonian Hall.

They organise activities like exercises, walking and swimming and dancing.

"The biggest part of our work is providing information," said Kathryn. "We work with a group called Tax Help for Older People which gives help and advice to people about their tax problems.

"They hold a tax surgery in Llantwit once a month. People can ring the office on 01446 795549 to make an appointment.

The centre is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am-1pm for drop-in services, or to make appointments for the specialist counsellors.

War veterans remember Far Eastern campaign

ABOVE: Members of the Royal British Legion at the Memorial Hall Cenotaph.

THE Royal British Legion (Barry branch) held a short wreath-laying service at the Memorial Hall Cenotaph, Barry, on Saturday, August 15 to commemmorate and remember the Burma Campaign, Battle of Kohima and VJ Day 1945.

The ceremony also paid tribute to all who lost their lives, both men and women, of the British and Allied Forces, in the war against the Japanese.

Attending the service were the Mayor and Mayoress of Barry, and Vale AM Jane Hutt.

Tributes were paid to the fallen by Mr J Hobbs, chairman Barry RBL, and the service was conducted by the Rev Ken Iveson, Barry branch chaplain.

Vale stud farm's victory at the Royal Welsh show

ONLY one Youngstock Section D Welsh Cob Gold medal is presented by the Welsh Pony and Cob Society each year – and that is at the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells.

This year it was awarded to a local stud with their three-year-old filly, Ionos Ffion, born and bred in Llangan.

The Ionos Stud have had a memorable year with *Ionos Ffion*, who has succeeded in winning both her class and championships at the three largest Welsh Pony and Cob Society shows – something that has not been achieved by a filly in more than nine years.

The season started in April at the Lampeter Stallion Show when she won both the E J Williams Perpetual Memorial Trophy for the Best Three Year Old Welsh Cob Filly and the Llwynhywel Stud Perpetual Challenge Memorial Cup for the Best overall Section D Filly.

Two weeks later, at the Glanusk Stallion Show held at the Builth Wells showground, she won her class and went on to win The Quinton Challenge Cup for Supreme Champion Filly of all Welsh filly classes.

To conclude her showing season, the Hughes family exhibited at the Cardigan County Show, where *Ionos Ffion* won a Welsh Pony and Cob Society bronze medal to add to her gold.

Ionos Lluan Non, who is Ffion's stable mate and companion, must not be overlooked. Also a three-year-old filly who won the yearling class at the 2007 Royal Welsh Show, *Ionos* has also been shown this year and has been Reserve Champion at the Glamorgan Association Show and Royal Bath and West Show.

While both fillies have only exhibited in the above shows, they have both been scanned in foal and undoubtedly will reappear in the show arena as brood mares in the near future.

For further information on the Ionos Stud, visit www.ionoswelsh-cobs.co.uk

Ionos Ffion.

PACT meetings

LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT public meeting will be held at Ewenny Village Hall on August 19 at 7pm.

ST BRIDES MAJOR PACT public meeting will be held at St Brides Major Church Hall on September 2 at 6pm.

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Marking the spot where poor little Tommy Jones fell

AFTER periods of heavy rainfall during the week, Peter Clark was lucky with the weather for his mountain walk recently, which began from Cwm Gwdi Training Camp, hidden away deep in the valley on the northern side of the central Beacons range.

Six keen walkers joined him for what promised to be a challenging walk from the valley bottom to join the ridgeway leading to Cribyn, which stands at 795 metres (2,608 feet above sea level) and from there across the central Beacons range.

Underfoot on the open moorland, conditions were wet and muddy which made the going fairly difficult at first, before they began the gradual climb up the Bryn Teg ridgeway that would lead them straight to the summit of Cribyn.

This was two miles of hard, uphill slog, followed by a couple of hundred metres of stiff steep scrambling to the top.

Breathless and tired, the group were rewarded by great panoramic views and a stop for lunch during which a comment was overheard from one of the group: "I've just found the spoon for the yoghurt – it's in my sandwich!"

ABOVE: The walkers reach the summit.

Refreshed, the group then headed for Pen y Fan, at 886 metres (2,906 feet) the highest mountain in south Wales, and this involved a descent of 130 metres followed by a climb of 220 metres.

That maybe doesn't sound a lot, but the group were very grateful when they reached the peak of Pen y Fan and a friendly Dutchman stopped to take the group photograph.

Then it was time to move on to Corn Du at 873 metres (2,863 feet) and after all the hard climbing that had preceded, this seemed more like a gentle stroll!

Leaving the glorious views behind, the group headed downhill to pass the Tommy Jones memorial stone bearing the inscription: 'This obelisk marks the spot where the body of Tommy Jones aged five was found. He lost his way between Cwmllwch Farm and the Login on the night of August 4, 1900. After an anxious search of 29 days, his body was found on September 2."

On his way to visit his grandparents and having stopped at the Login, now a ruin (where soldiers were encamped for training at the nearby rifle range) for refreshments, his father remained behind while Tommy and his cousin Willie ran on ahead to Cwmllwch Farm. The boys parted further on as Tommy wanted to return to his father and he did not return.

The family, police, soldiers and members of the public searched in vain and when his body was found some 29 days later, it was at a height of 2,250 feet up the mountainside, some 1,300 feet above the Login.

Tommy had died from exhaustion and exposure, but it is hard to credit how a small five-year-old boy could climb to such a height, over difficult terrain in the dark.

Passing the dark, brooding Llyn Cwm Llwch below, the group made their way downhill into the valley and returned to their start.

On August 22, meet at 8.15am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a trip up to Gloucester, and a seven-mile easy walk to view the Severn Bore, contact Janet/John on 01446 418514.

A reminder to walk leaders and prospective leaders, or anyone who would like to submit a walk, that on August 25 there will be a programme planning evening for the autumn/winter programme, please contact Val H. on 029 2051 3274.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Grant for water feature

BARRY Town Council has secured a grant of £3,000 from the Vale Council's Community Action Self Help (CASH) Scheme.

The grant will match funding allocated by the town council for the next phase of the council's biodiversity project at the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.

This will include the creation of a pond/water feature aimed at attracting new wildlife into the area.

The council's biodiversity project programme forms part of a UK initiative, the Million Ponds Project, whose aim is to create a network of new ponds across the United Kingdom.

100 years of guiding

RAINBOWS, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section members from Cowbridge and Llantwit Major will be celebrating the centenary of Girlguiding UK by holding launch parties in September.

Vale division commissioner, Wendy Hinton, wishes to invite former leaders from Cowbridge and Llantwit Major to join in the celebrations.

For more information, contact (01656) 648783 or email wendyhinton@hotmail.com

Vale community buildings to get a big cash boost

THREE community groups in the Vale are among 48 in Wales that will benefit from the Welsh Assembly Government's Community Facilities and Activities Programme (CFAP).

The CFAP is a grant scheme available to help support community or voluntary organisations provide facilities or carry out activities which will promote the regeneration of communities. Since its launch in 2002, CFAP has funded 660 projects to a total of £64 million.

Projects in the Vale will receive a total of £240,636 in funding. They are:

- Elfed Avenue United Church – £14,662.50 for repairs to the back wall of the church to ensure the building is fit for purpose.
- Penarth District Scout Council £128,974 – to improve the existing premises including refurbishing the kitchen and toilet facilities, installing shower cubicles, installing energy saving lighting and heating and improving storage.
- Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Barry – £97,000 to replace the current 120 year old building with a new church hall with access to all parts of the premises for disabled people.

Announcing the funding, Leighton Andrews, Deputy Minister for Regeneration said: "The Community Facilities and Activities Programme can make a real, tangible difference to community and voluntary groups at grass roots level.

"Grants can range from a few thousand pounds to install a new heating system, to much larger grants of several hundreds of thousands of pounds to build new facilities."

Woodlands Centre to continue after show of public support

EARLIER this year, vandals wrecked a greenhouse which was used by a Barry gardening group to produce vegetables and flowers bringing heartbreak to a group of adults with learning disabilities.

The highly successful horticultural project has been run by the Vale Council social services at The Woodlands Centre for a number of years. Thankfully, the project will continue after it received a variety of kind donations from the public, including plants, seeds and cash.

Day service manager, Christine James, said: "The clients were able to get the greenhouse up and running again in time for this season to produce a good selection of fruit and vegetables all of which have been sold to raise funds for the centre.

"All the people involved in the project would like to give a big thank you to all those who made donations."

Barry Legion's new chaplain

RIGHT: John Hobbs with Rev Ken Iveson

AT the recent meeting of the Barry branch of the Royal British Legion, held at the Mayor's Parlour, Memorial Hall, Barry, on August 10, the chairman Mr John Hobbs inaugurated the Rev Ken Iveson as the new chaplain for the Barry Branch RBL.

He was presented with the chaplain's stole and was welcomed into the branch by the chairman and members.

Pastor Iveson is the pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Cadoxton.

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From CARDIFF join Bus connections for Penarth Pier – Service 52a departs Central Station (Stand E2) 45mins before ship departs & meets ship on return. Bus Fares to be paid on board Penarth Pier is 20mins from M4-Junction 33. On street Car Parking.

WESTON: VISIT SEA-LIFE
FRIDAY AUG 21 Leave 10am back 9.30pm
FRIDAY SEPT 4 Leave 10am back 8.15pm
Enjoy a trip to the seaside at Weston-Super-Mare £19.95. Include a visit to the fascinating Sea-Life Centre – inclusive fare £25

HOLM ISLANDS CRUISE
FRIDAY AUG 21 Leave 10am back 5.30pm
BANK HOLIDAY SATURDAY AUG 29 Leave 12.30pm back 6pm
Visit Clevedon & enjoy a cruise of the Holm Islands £19 SC £17 On Aug 29 Special Bank Holiday Fares - Clevedon £15; Holm Islands £19

EVENING CRUISE
FRIDAY AUG 21 Leave 5.30pm back 9.30pm
FRIDAY SEPT 4 Leave 4.15pm back 8.15pm
Enjoy a peaceful evening cruise viewing the Somerset Coast sailing to Weston Bay £15 SC £13

ILFRACOMBE • EXMOOR COAST
SATURDAY AUG 22 Leave 11am back 8pm
SUNDAY AUG 23 Leave 12.15pm back 8pm
THURSDAY AUG 27 Leave 10am back 8.45pm
SATURDAY SEPT 5 Leave 10.30am back 7.30pm
Day trip to Glorious Devon - see the spectacular Exmoor Coast & visit Ilfracombe £27 On Aug 27 stay aboard for the afternoon cruise exploring the National Trust Coast of Exmoor £33 Senior fare on Aug 27 to Ilfracombe £26

MINEHEAD • 40 MILE STEAM RAILWAY • BUTLINS
THURSDAY AUG 27 Leave 10am back 8.45pm
Visit Minehead - take a coach tour over Exmoor and cruise home from Ilfracombe £21 Or cruise to Minehead and join the GWR for a 40-mile steam train trip through the Somerset Countryside and 9 charming stations. Enjoy a Minehead – Exmoor coach tour and cruise home from Ilfracombe £35 Or cruise to Minehead and enjoy a Family Fun Day out at Butlins – all inclusive fare £35

DON'T MISS A GREAT NIGHT OUT ON AN EVENING SHOWBOAT!
SATURDAY AUG 22 Leave 8pm back 11pm
SATURDAY SEPT 5 Leave 7.30pm back 10.30pm
Don't miss our famous Evening Showboats with live music onboard £19 Groups of 6 and more £17

LUNDY ISLAND • ILFRACOMBE • L&B RAILWAY
FRIDAY AUG 28 Leave 10.15am back 9.30pm
SUNDAY SEPT 6 Leave 9.45am back 9.30pm
Visit Ilfracombe £27 SC £25 Or view the Exmoor Coast & visit Lundy Island. Explore this enchanting National Trust Island with spectacular views, seabirds, Church of St. Helena & Marisco Tavern - Inclusive fare £39.95 Or enjoy a trip aboard the Lynton & Barnstaple narrow gauge Railway in North Devon & visit Lynmouth – inclusive fare £39

WATERMOUTH CASTLE FAMILY THEME PARK
FRIDAY AUG 28 Leave 10.15am back 9.30pm
A wonderful family day out! Sail to Ilfracombe to visit a Castle & theme park amid spectacular scenery of Devon Coast. See Magnificent Gardens: Bumper Boats: Rides & Adventure Land: Dungeons: Gnome Land: All-our-Yesterdays Museum. Inclusive fare (no extras to pay) for your great day is only £31

3 RIVERS & 5 BRIDGES • BRISTOL CITY TOUR
BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY AUG 30 Leave 11.30am back 6.45pm
Visit Clevedon £15. Cruise on the River Avon sailing through the spectacular Avon Gorge and on the 'calm waters' of Rivers Severn and Wye & sail under the spectacular Severn Bridges £25. Or enjoy an open top Bus Tour of Bristol's historic sites – inclusive fare £29

RIVER AVON & SOMERSET COAST • BRISTOL CITY TOUR
TUESDAY SEPT 1 Leave 1.30pm back 7.45pm
Visit Clevedon £15. Or enjoy a cruise up River Avon & through the spectacular Avon Gorge - under the Clifton Suspension Bridge before enjoying a cruise along the Somerset Coast £23 SC £21. Or enjoy an open top Bus Tour of Bristol's historic sites – inclusive fare £29

EXPLORE SOMERSET BY STEAM RAILWAY
THURSDAY SEPT 3 Leave 10.30am back 9.15pm
Cruise to Clevedon and join the West Somerset Railway. Pick up a timetable on board and enjoy a day aboard the historic steam & diesel locomotives, exploring the countryside and stations along the 20mile railway. Cruise home from Minehead £35

MINEHEAD • WATCHET
THURSDAY SEPT 3 Leave 3.30pm back 9.15pm
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OUR HARDWORKING STUDENTS MUST BE CONGRATULATED AS THE RESULTS ROLL IN!

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

AUGUST is the month where the tensions and anxieties rise as our young people await their A/AS and GCSE results.

The relief to have finished the exams last term and the holidays enjoyed, give way to the wait for the results and I know that, once again, we will be able to congratulate our young people and their teachers on their achievements.

As your Education Minister in the Welsh Assembly Government, this is a time when I am here to support our young people, their families and their schools as they receive the results and plan their futures.

Joining the students at Coleg Glan Hafren on results day, provides me with the opportunity to publicly congratulate young people and adult learners across the whole of Wales, but I will also take the opportunity to contact the Vale schools to give them my congratulations, as their Assembly Member.

I have written to every secondary school headteacher in Wales this week to forward copies of our latest up-to-date guide for young people considering the choices they can make for their next steps in education and training, taking into account the impact of the credit crunch.

In considering the choices that are available, I have outlined examples of courses at school, college and university as well as the apprenticeship route.

There has been an 11 per cent increase in applications to university from young people in Wales, but we have not put a cap on numbers and the range of higher education courses is vast.

We also reminded our students that if they stay in school or college, they may qualify for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of up to £30 per week.

For more information on EMA, call 0845 602 8845 or visit www.studentfinancewales.co.uk.

These contact details will also provide information on student finance for university students. If you normally live in Wales, you will be entitled to Student Finance Wales, regardless of where you choose to study in the UK.

If you are under-19, your parent or guardian can continue to claim Child Benefit (or other benefits paid by the Government) if you are on a full-time course at school or college, or an approved training course and are receiving a learning allowance.

We have also produced a guide for parents and guardians 'Your Family Friend' on the support we can provide for their children and families.

This also includes information on free school meals, free breakfasts, schools uniform grant, free pre school nursery places, working tax credit to help with childcare costs and your local family information service fis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk on 01446 704704.

The Careers Wales services are geared up to support and advise you. You can visit careerswales.com/yourfuture for information on your options, job and training vacancies, career ideas, courses, and information on more than 600 careers and how to get started in them.

Also you can contact your local careers offices in the Vale. You can also call the Learning and Careers Advice Line on 0800 100 900 for more information.

Although we continue to face difficult economic times, the latest labour force survey for Wales and the UK, published by the Office for National Statistics last Wednesday, shows that once again Wales has bucked the trend.

While the number of unemployed in Wales fell again, the figures show that total UK unemployment rose again.

This month's statistics showed that unemployment fell by 2,000 in Wales over the quarter, and the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, said it is still the case that the recession still has some way to go: "But today's figures show that Wales' relative performance has continued to improve – and that's extremely encouraging in the light of the intense efforts that the Assembly Government has made to counter the global recession."

This will be encouraging for our young people as we seek to encourage them to stay in education, training and work as we reach the end of these summer school and college holidays.

The Vale does have unemployment hotspots which we have a duty to tackle.

At the end of July, we announced the first round of the Future Jobs Fund creating more than 2,000 jobs, mainly for young people, promoted by local government and the voluntary sector. I hope the Vale of Glamorgan Council will take advantage of this multi million Government programme.

We have a duty and responsibility to intervene and stimulate every opportunity to keep our young people in training, education or work, and to support employers in taking on apprentices with extra investment from my department in the Welsh Assembly Government.

Over this week and next, I will be robust in answering all the usual questions about standards and I will be resolute in my praise for the young people in their achievements from all our schools in Wales, in all the subjects studied.

In particular, I will be proud to welcome the latest Welsh Baccalaureate results which underpin the broader cohort of skills that our young people need through the vocational and academic routes they may pursue, winning plaudits from the Nuffield Trust for our educational advancements for our young people.

To every young person I will be saying: "Whatever path you take, learning is the key, so make learning work for you!"

COURT CASES HEARD BY THE VALE MAGISTRATES

THOMAS RONALD KAVANAGH (20) of Ferry Road, Grangetown, Cardiff, admitted damaging a fence in Dinas Powys belonging to United Welsh Housing.

He was given a conditional discharge for 12 months.

He had also admitted damaging a perspex screen belonging to South Wales Police.

ANTONY BENJAMIN MILLER (21) of Merion Close, Barry, admitted possession of cannabis, a Class B drug, in Barry on June 13.

He was ordered to pay a fine of £35 and pay costs of £50.

JAMES STEPHEN TURPITT (25) of Windsor Road, Penarth, admitted drink driving in Archer Road in the town on May 31.

Magistrates heard a reading showed 103 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood.

He was banned from driving for 12 months, fined £160 and told to pay prosecution costs of £50.

If a course is completed, the ban can be reduced by three months.

STEVEN ANDREW FIELD (50) of The Tumble, St Nicholas, admitted drink driving on July 26.

Magistrates heard a reading showed 51 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

He was banned from driving for 12 months and fined £100.

If a course is completed, the ban can be reduced by three months.

PAUL LUKE GRIFFITHS (25) of Teifi Drive, Barry, admitted drink driving along Kathleen Street on July 27, and driving without proper insurance.

Magistrates heard that a reading showed 54 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

He was banned from driving for three years and fined a total of £605.

PAUL TREVOR HAYMAN (38) of Michaelston Close, Barry, admitted destroying a PACE codes of practice book at Barry Police station, and damaging an anti-rip suit and a cell at Bridgend Magistrates Court.

He was given a conditional discharge for six months and was told to pay £110.97 in compensation.

Vale roadworks

ROAD closure at **Barry Road junction with Court Road and Fairford Street** – local diversions will be in place until September 7.

TRAFFIC barriers in place, carriageway width restrictions at **Church Road, Bridge Street, Cowbridge Street, Barry** – ongoing.

FOOTWAY restriction in place at **Pontypridd Street, junction with Mount Pleasant** – ongoing.

TEMPORARY traffic signals at **Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Aberthin Road, Cowbridge** – until August 23.

INTERMITTENT traffic control at **The Broadshoard, Cowbridge** – until August 31.

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Coffee and a chat

AN 'open door' session, with tea or coffee, is to take place at Crossway Church Hall, Barry.

The sessions will take place every Wednesday afternoon, from 2pm to 3.30pm, and they will start on September 2.

A spokeswoman said: "If you are bored with TV or the weather and fancy a chat, all are welcome."

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Council recognises the importance of volunteering

THE Vale Council recently hosted its fifth annual awards event to recognise the important work that volunteers do for the community.

Volunteers were nominated for the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) year of the volunteer awards under subjects such as initiative, dedication or personal qualities, and as the standard of achievement was so high, it was decided that all should be presented with certificates of high commendation.

Included in the event was the presentation of a cheque to the Vale Council's Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams, for £24,080,411, signifying in monetary terms how much volunteering is worth to the Vale.

The director of the Vale Volunteer Bureau, Alison Steere, said: "Volunteers provide so much to local communities and many services would not exist without their support."

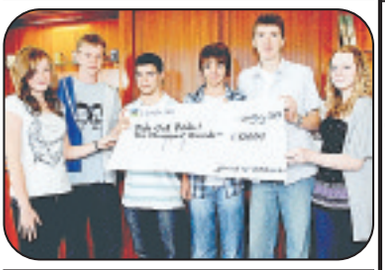
The second year of the Vale Volunteer Bureau's 'Dish out Dosh' project, which sees a panel of young volunteers distributing funding to youth-led volunteering projects in the Vale, also recently began and a new panel of grant distributors has been recruited to decide just how much 'dosh' to dish out!

The youth-led grants scheme, inspired by television's Dragon's Den, is funded by the Vale Council's 14-19 network and Welsh Youth Volunteering initiative, Gwirvol, in order to help young people put their ideas into action.

Last year's project gave grants that enabled six youth volunteering projects to take place and enabled 110 young people to engage in volunteering.

For more information, contact the Vale Volunteer Bureau on 01446 421782 or visit www.vvb.org.uk.

Above: Volunteers nominated for the WCVA Year of the Volunteer Award, with the Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams.



ABOVE: Members of the VVB's new grants panel for 'Dish Out Dosh'.

EMAIL US!

● WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Ty Hafan man on the spot

TY HAFAN community fundraiser Robert Taylor (above), who has been with the charity for more than five years, has been appointed to look after the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, Porthcawl, Neath & Port Talbot and Swansea area.

Married with two grown up daughters, he previously worked with Tenovus for 13 years.

He can be contacted on 07989 564326 or robert@tyhafan.org.

Mythical stamp winners

THE winners of our recent stamp competition were:

Ken Wright, Barry; Doris Allen, Ystradowen; Mr Williams, Llanblethian; Mr Wilson, Llantwit Major; Mr Roger Bradshaw, Cowbridge; Mr C Thomas, Pencoed; V Taylor, Cefn Cribwr; Mr Powell, Pencoed; Anne Baxter, St Athan; Ifon Jones, Bridgend; David Lewis, St Brides Major; Shirley Huxter, Barry; John W Floyd, Llantwit Major; CM McCarthy, Rhoose; Mrs Robinson, Dinas Powys; Bridget Gough, Porthcawl; Mrs Hiscock, Cowbridge; Mrs Lewis, Llantwit Major; Rosie Woolven, Rhoose; Pam Price, Barry.

Congratulations to you all.

Family is behind marathon cycle ride for Bridgend unit

A LOCAL woman is urging people to get behind her husband, who is cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for a Bridgend palliative care unit.

PAUL HARRIS.

Samantha Harris (nee Hoad) grew up in Cowbridge and Treoes and went to Cowbridge Comprehensive School along with her brother Christian Hoad, who still lives in Bridgend.

She is living now in West Sussex with her young family, and her husband Paul, who turned 40 earlier this year and decided to set himself a challenge!

Samantha said: "On September 1 he is cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats in 12 days. This involves covering 1,000 miles over 12 days, averaging 80 – 90 miles per day.

"This is a chance to raise money for two charities that have touched his life in the last couple of years. Paul has already raised nearly £9,000 from family, friends and colleagues, which includes a £5,000 donation from his company – and is well on the way to reaching his target of £10,000 for his chosen charities."

One of the charities is Y Bwthyn Newydd, the palliative care unit at the Princess of Wales hospital in Bridgend.

Samantha explained: "The unit offered my late mother, Pauline Davies, fantastic support after she was diagnosed with lung cancer.

"She spent several years receiving care from the dedicated and caring staff and, as a small self-funded unit, it will be a great way to say thank you for the help and support they offered her, and our family, in difficult times."

Paul's other charity is the Exeter Leukaemia Fund (ELF), which has been supportive since his nephew was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer aged 19.

Samantha added: " We have two children of 10 and seven years and we are all really proud of him.

"Anyone who wishes to sponsor him can donate via his website on *www.justgiving.com/chopperharris*

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Rhoose family's touching tribute to 'popular' man

'A MAN who had time for everyone and was very popular' – that was how the family of a Rhoose man, who was killed while out walking his dog, has paid tribute to him.

Mr Gary Turner died following a road traffic collision in the village late on Thursday evening, August 13.

In a tribute, his family said they would remember him as someone with a love of life.

The family said: "Our brother Gary Turner was tragically taken away from us and will be greatly missed by all he left behind, especially his partner, his children, nieces and nephews.

"He was a well known character in the village and loved life and anything to do with the outdoors.

ABOVE: Gary Turner.

"He had time for everyone and was very popular and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him."

A police spokesman said: "The collision happened at around 10.20pm on Thursday, August 13 in the cul-de-sac at Murlande Way, Rhoose, when a green Daewoo Lanos car was in collision with a male pedestrian who was walking his dog in the area at the time.

"We are appealing to anyone who witnessed the collision or the movements of the male walking his dog prior to the collision, to contact us on 101."

Appeal after fatal collision near St Athan

A 27-year-old man died at St Athan on Friday, August 14, following a road traffic collision.

The incident took place on the B4265 at 12.50pm.

A police spokesman said: "An articulated car transporter, which was travelling in an easterly direction, was in collision with a Vauxhall van which was travelling in the opposite direction.

"The 27-year-old male driver of the Vauxhall van, who was from the Hengoed area, suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

"The 43 year old male driver of the car transporter, who was from the Gloucester area, has been assisting police with their enquiries into the collision."

The road was closed for many hours while a forensic examination of the scene was conducted.

A family liaison officer is supporting the dead man's family

The police spokesman added: "We are appealing to witnesses to the collision or to people who may have seen the driving of either vehicle beforehand."

Witnesses are asked to contact the Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

THEFT DOESN'T STOP DAVID

Porthcawl 80-year-old gets back on his bike

IF you are approaching your 80th birthday, and a thief makes off with your bike, then you might take it as a sign to give up.

That is definitely not the case with Coun David Newton-Williams, three times the Mayor of Porthcawl, who is pictured celebrating his 80th birthday on his new mountain bike.

Coun Newton-Williams' old bike was stolen a few weeks ago when he left it unattended for a moment in John Street.

Family and friends clubbed together to buy him a brand new mountain bike as an extra special birthday present.

PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN

Police in Bridgend and the Vale offer a fresh pledge to the public

POLICING in the newly re-organised Bridgend and Vale division was the subject at a community liaison meeting recently, where councillors were told about a new pledge to the public.

Supt Liane James spoke to members of the Vale Council's community liaison committee, and outlined the 'Policing Pledge' that was adopted from December 31, 2008.

She said that there were four key pillars covered by the pledge:

- Fairness, dignity and respect.
- Community engagement and consultation.
- Contact management and response.
- Victim, witness and customer care.

Supt James highlighted a number of examples where "negative encounters" with the police had affected satisfaction levels but she said that poor behaviour and attitudes within the force were being addressed.

The force expected to continue to give opportunities to meet with the police through Neighbourhood Policing Teams, PACT, panel meetings, surgeries and mobile stations.

PACT priorities detailed how they were decided, who was consulted, how long they would run for and what progress had been delivered.

Members of the committee congratulated Supt James on her assessment of the current police service. She indicated that recent crime figures were the lowest for 20 years but, as the public still did not feel safe, it was how best to communicate this information to provide reassurance.

She was asked what was the current position with regard to recruitment and retention, as Community Police Service Officers seemed to change regularly, just as they were beginning to know an area.

She replied that CPSO positions tended to be a'feeder' for persons wanting to join the Police Service. For this reason, it would be very difficult to deny a good CPSO the opportunity for progression, and could fail to manage their career expectations

Another questioner said that involvement in PACT had earned respect for the work of local officers. Was there a commitment from Police to keep this going?

Supt James said that feedback had indicated that PACT meetings could seem a little tired with the same people involved all the time.

There was a commitment to keep PACT going, but new initiatives would be considered and recently, the police had visited a local care home to engage with a different part of the community.

Inspector Mark Taylor confirmed that there had been lots of work on the front line within the area and in May and June 2009 there had been 42 arrests and many seizures of drugs.

He also pointed to improved statistics comparing the April, May, June quarter in 2008 compared with the same period in 2009, where reported crime had fallen.

Burglary had fallen from 96 cases to 73, a fall of 24 per cent.

Robbery had gone from nine to four. Car theft had fallen from 64 to 56, a drop of 22 per cent.

Theft from cars had gone down from 19 to 15, a fall of 24 per cent.

Finally, assaults and other crimes had dropped from a high point of 195 to 75, a fall of 60 per cent!

Exercises carried out at Barry Waterfront had led to nine vehicles being seized, 66 ASBO referrals and the issue of 80 fixed penalty notices for parking offences.

The recently introduced exclusion orders to prevent the drinking of alcohol in public areas at Barry Island, the Waterfront and parks appeared to be working well.

South Wales Police had recently carried out operations at gateways into the Vale area and this seemed to have sent out the right message as criminal incidents had decreased significantly at Culverhouse Cross since this time.

A questioner referred to a recent PACT meeting that had taken place and what seemed to be an overly defensive response of councillors to a matter raised by a resident.

Insp Taylor indicated that councillors' attendance at PACT meetings tended to be spasmodic due to their other commitments but their input was always welcome, and generally attendance had improved.

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The Glamorgan GEM

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FOR GEM readers everywhere – not just the Vale and Bridgend – the great news is that there is an on-line edition of the newspaper.

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People who used to live in south Wales, but now live abroad, have the chance to regularly catch up with news in the Vale and Bridgend.

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Ben Edwards, the marketing manager of PageSuite, who have provided the software for the new venture, said: "We are positive GEM readers will love their new digital newspapers. Our software is used by top publishers the world over – with more than one million customers reading PageSuite digital editions every month.

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LLANTWIT'S SUMMER SOUNDS MUSIC FESTIVAL IS HAILED A GREAT SUCCESS!

ABOVE: We came for the music and had our faces painted at the same time!

'A great day out' at Summer Sounds

CONGRATULATIONS to Summer Sounds – a great Sunday out and a most enjoyable week.

We all enjoyed the atmosphere. Thanks for all your hard work.

We are looking forward to 2010 already!

Eileen Bennett, Llantwit Major

ABOVE: These charming men proved highly entertaining.
BELOW: It appears face painting was a popular pastime at the event!

THE Llantwit Major-based Summer Sounds group completed its most successful festival of music to date, with a heady mix of music, food and drink (and face painting) with a family atmosphere and goodwill in abundance.

The week kicked off with a launch at the Old White Hart, followed by events at Bethel Baptist Church, Llantonian Hall and St Illtyd's Church.

The week culminated on Sunday, August 16, with a free extravaganza at Llantwit Major's shopping precinct which saw eight diverse acts from 'Neil Diamond' to folk, to rock, to soul, perform for a packed all-day audience.

Major Music chairman, Phil Kirkham, Said: "I have been involved in the Summer Sounds festival for the first four years and with all honesty can say this has been by far the most successful."

Mrs Ann Matthews, the town council's representative on the Summer Sounds Committee, said: "The town must take great pride in the way both young and old got together to enjoy this event. It was fantastic to see fathers and sons, and mothers and daughters singing along to songs such as 'Mustang Sally' at the finale.

"We hope this event will be a firm date in everyone's calendar in the future."

ABOVE: The Amigos, featuring guitar virtuoso Gary Phillips.

Thanks to the Summer Sounds audience

ON behalf of the organising committee, may I thank all those people who supported the series of events that went on in the town between August 8-16.

From the launch event in The White Hart pub, to the Sunday 'all day event' in the precinct on August 16, the town, and visitors were superb in both support and conduct.

The Sunday event saw Llantwit Major at its best, with young and 'not so young' joining together to listen to a diverse mixture of sounds. We felt, as a committee, that the assembled audience were a credit to Llantwit Major.

Also, many thanks to The GEM for their continued support of this event.

Dave Roberts, (Summer Sounds)

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Police plan to protect golf club this summer

POLICE are carrying out a summer campaign to protect a Vale golf club from school holiday vandals.

South Wales Police are investigating a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club – all since the beginning of the school summer break.

The criminal damage has included flags being damaged and taken out of the golf holes, seed boxes turned upside down, trees being damaged and the most recent incident being a flag burnt with an accelerant, causing permanent damage to the turf underneath which now has to be replaced.

PC Mark Goulding of Cowbridge Police Station said: "The golf club has been repeatedly targeted over the past few years during the summer months and incidents of criminal damage have increased considerably and we're asking anyone with information to contact us.

"Most of the damage has occurred during the late evening when the club closes. This continued and systematic criminal and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated by police.

"We are carrying out extra police patrols in the grounds of the golf club on a nightly basis. Officers will be patrolling the area using mobile golf carts, and police dog handlers will be checking the perimeter fencing of the golf club and other areas of the course."

He added: "The golf club will also be taking security measures to prevent further loss and damage to them."

Anyone with information on these incidents, should contact PC Mark Goulding at Cowbridge Police Station on 101; or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

LEFT: *Head greenkeeper Tyron Garland and PCSO Angela Stone at a fire-damaged green on Wenvoe Castle Golf Club.*

NEW SYSTEM IS BEATING BED-BLOCKING IN THE VALE – says NHS TRUST

CARDIFF and Vale NHS Trust says that a new way of treating older patients and reducing prolonged hospital stays is getting a warm welcome from patients and staff in Cardiff and the Vale.

Cardiff and the Vale Local Health Boards, and local authorities and the NHS Trust have received Welsh Assembly Government funding to create Transitional Care Units.

These new units, at Willowbrook and Shire Hall Nursing Homes in Cardiff, and across the Vale, allow patients to be assessed and receive care from specialist teams.

This means they have the right support and preparation to return to independent living or to a nursing home. Previously, they would have had their long term care needs assessed in hospital or at home.

Jonathon Davies, the director of operations at Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust said: "When patients no longer need specialist in-patient medical care, but require assessment for long term care in the community, they often remain in hospital for unacceptably long periods.

"The Transitional Care Units (TCUs) are supported by new assessment teams that include specialist consultants and nurses, GPs, physiotherapists, dieticians, occupational therapists, social workers, speech and language therapists and also care home managers.

"This means several organisations are working closely to support the patient. Staff within the health and social care community have commented that they are now able to deliver better care."

Jenny Theed, the nurse director for Cardiff Local Health Board, said: "The evidence is that the TCUs are working well. Since we introduced these units, more patients have been assessed, more have been able to return home with care packages and very few have stayed longer than the six-week assessment period expected.

"More importantly, we have been able to manage patient and family expectations better, during what can be a difficult period."

Jim Thompson, the executive nurse for the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board, said: "The aim of transitional care beds in the Vale is the same as in Cardiff, but the process is slightly different.

"We operate a 'virtual wards' system, with beds in nursing homes across the Vale to ensure patients are placed near to their own homes. They receive continuity of care from their own GPs and the ongoing involvement of an assessment team.

"We have a more flexible approach to the assessment period, to allow patients to experience a different care setting after a long period spent in hospital."

Ty Hafan lottery

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 579.

● **£2000:** 242356. ● **£500:** 170862 ● **£100:** 759277. ● **£50:** 331621. ● **£10:** 852522; 458376; 290953; 109480; 216459; 865848; 429339; 823113; 559903; 695079; 528186; 263214; 424914; 397371; 666587; 798728; 781058; 169926; 245041; 226852. ● **£5:** 842168; 637790; 242446; 779405; 511070; 422668; 595005; 773780; 204939; 702500; 357164; 235602; 725635; 454143; 896015; 325877; 486040; 202418; 795244; 227597; 153775; 579310; 251854; 219842; 749144; 376921; 210953; 799154; 287257; 519080.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

New Barry Second World War exhibition to open next month

A two-week long exhibition commemorating the role that the people of Barry played in the Second World War will officially open on Saturday, September 12, at Art Central in Barry Library.

Local military historian, Dr Jonathan Hicks, a regular contributor to The GEM, has assembled a fascinating collection of memories and photographs from that momentous period, and these will be on display as a collection for the first time.

Dr Hicks said: "At a time when we are only too well aware of the sacrifice made by our armed forces in Afghanistan, it is pertinent to look back at the contribution our relatives made to the defeat of the Axis powers from 1939-1945.

"Next month sees the 70th anniversary of the start of World War Two and many events will be held nationally. I approached our local council and asked what could be done to commemorate this event and I was offered Art Central for a two-week period.

"This is an opportunity for the people of the Vale to recall how this conflict affected Barrians.

"The articles I have written for The GEM over the past two years have attracted widespread interest, with many dozens of contacts bringing forth photographs and additional information on the subject matter.

"This has, in itself, led to the preparation of more material and shows that there is enormous interest in Barry and the Vale in the history of the area during the Second World War.

"I will be in attendance on the three Saturdays and look forward to speaking with visitors about their memories of the Second World War.

"Until such time as Barry has its own museum, events such as this are one of the few ways that local people can come together to share their interest in the history of our town."

War and famine at Cosmeston

COSMESTON Medieval Village, near Penarth, will be delving back to the dark and terrible times of the year 1350 on Sunday, August 30, and Monday, August 31, to recreate a time of war, plague and famine!

Between 11am-5pm each day, a rebuilt medieval community with villagers, animals, gardens and buildings full of medieval artefacts will be on display, all re-enacting what life was like more than 600 years ago.

There will be armoured warriors fighting with sword and axe, hopefully not requiring the attention of the medieval surgeon who will be at the fair all day.

There will be the chance to get involved and try your hand at archery, while live medieval music will help to set the scene.

For further information, call 02920 701678 or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Show time at Llancarfan!

THE fourth village show to be held in Llancarfan takes place on Saturday, August 22.

The results of the judging will be on show to the public from 2pm and the cups and the RHS Banksian Medal will be presented by Coun Gordon Kemp at 3pm.

A show spokeswoman said: "Appeals for patrons has had an overwhelming response, and the show is becoming a popular annual event in the rural Vale for both adults and schoolchildren."

Further information is available from Sue Taylor on 01446 781337.

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Sunshine and smiles at the Vale Show!

Getting your calf looking pristine!

Grooming an entry in the cuddly wild animal category!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

THE annual Vale of Glamorgan Show at Fonmon got off to a hectic start yesterday (Wednesday) with thousands of visitors flooding into the showground within an hour of the gates opening at 8.30am.

The show's general secretary, Nicola Gibson broke off from her organisational duties to tell The GEM: "I'm thrilled by the response of people. Although it is mid-morning it is already very busy.

"By 9am people were pouring into the car parks."

Nicola spent the previous 12 months preparing for the big day, and arrived at Fonmon early in the morning to make sure last minute arrangements were falling into place.

"I got to the showground at 6am – there were some people already here. Trade stand people often stay overnight in preparation for the day and we have security on site, too.

"It was great to see some sunshine because we've had two bad years weather wise.

"The commitment of people to get here has been really impressive.

"We heard quite early on that the M4 was getting busy, which was a good sign.

"People have come from all over Wales, and from England.

"One farmer from Anglesey set off with his sheep just before 2am and arrived not long after me!"

Last year, the organisers had to contend with weeks of rain in the lead-up to the big day, which meant local farmers had to put down bark onto the temporary roadways – but this year the rain gods gave Fonmon a miss!

Nicola explained: "It is very important that the Vale Show goes on. Some shows have been cancelled this year because of adverse weather earlier in the summer.

"By 10am, the site was choc-a-bloc and people have already been telling me 'what a fabulous day!'."

Competitiors and visitors found the show more ambitious than ever.

There was a record entry for the cattle, sheep, horse and dog classes, and the limousin category was outstanding.

One of the farmers exhibiting his sheep remarked: "It's one of the toughest classes I've entered – the opposition this year has been very strong."

For visitors, there were more than 200 trade stands to browse around, a shopping mall housed in a giant marquee; and for keen gardeners, a horticultural competition taking place in another marquee.

For motorbike enthusiasts, there was a tempting array of classic Royal Enfields up for sale.

One of the most popular displays was one on beekeeping. New to the show this year, people were able to put on protective gear and handle the bees making the honeycombs.

Later in the day, Cardiff Blues treated spectators to a display of their rugby skills.

Children weren't forgotton either. A fairground was laid on, an 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here' style challenge was on offer, Petwise Zoo brought in lots of creepy crawlies, and there was lazer-clay fun too.

By midday, the traffic trying to turn into Fonmon was stretching all the way back to St Athan.

Nicola added: "When you see the smiling faces and everything is going so well, it makes all the effort worthwhile!"

Not the Martians – it's a chance to get close to a bee hive!

ABOVE:
Getting ready to see the bees!

Call your local specialist

Are you ready?

digital switch over

Make sure you are prepared for television's new digital age and the big 'switchover'!

THE DIGITAL TV age is upon us – so what exactly does that mean?

The digital TV switchover is the process of turning the UK's analogue TV signal and replacing it with a digital one.

The switchover is a Government policy and in the long term means that almost everyone in the UK will be able to receive digital TV through an aerial (Freeview).

There are major benefits for viewers in going digital – more TV channels, new features such as on-screen listings, interactivity, audio description, more subtitling for people with hearing problems, and additional channels and services including broadband.

The switchover affects any TV that receives its signal from an aerial.

If you use an aerial it will receive its signal from a transmitter in the UK – there are more than 1,150 transmitters organised around 80 transmitter groups that will switch to digital one by one. Each group has a main switchover transmitter and local relay transmitters.

Prior to switchover, local relay transmitters are only able to transmit an analogue signal; after switchover it will be digital and the number of channels will increase from five to 20.

It is important that you understand which transmitter you are watching – your switchover date depends on that transmitter.

If you are watching a main transmitter you will receive more than 40 digital channels. If you are watching a relay transmitter you will receive around 20 channels.

If you go to *www.digitaluk.co.uk* you can put in your postcode and check when the switchover will take place in your area. For example, CF63 – Barry – will have a two-stage switchover in March 2010 from the Wenvoe transmitter.

The first stage of the switchover is to purchase a Freeview box. You may need someone to set it up for you, or you may be able to do it yourself.

If you need help, the companies on this page will be able to set you up.

You do not require a new television.

By checking at *www.digitaluk.co.uk* you can compare services with a digital options table.

Nearly all TV sets can be converted to digital with a digital box. Look for the digital tick logo – if a product has it, it is designed to continue working after the switchover.

You will need to consider all the TV equipment in your home when preparing for switchover.

How many TVs do you have in your home? Consider every TV set that you want to continue watching. Any TV left unconverted will not work after switchover.

Most rooftop aerials and some set-top aerials will be fine after switchover. If you decide to get a service like Freeview, BT Vision or Top Up TV, you can check your aerial by visiting the aerial test on Teletext page 284.

If you decide to get your digital TV service from Sky TV, Virgin Media, Freesat from Sky or Freesat on all the TV sets in your home, you won't need an aerial.

How much does switching cost?

Switching to digital doesn't need to be expensive. The price will vary depending on the digital choices you make.

The things to consider are:

- The number of TVs in your home you choose to convert.
- Whether you choose to pay one upfront cost or pay monthly for a subscription service. If you choose to buy a standard digital box, an HD digital box, an integrated digital TV (iDTV), or a digital TV recorder (which will also convert your TV to digital) you will want to go to a retailer.
- Whether to choose to subscribe to additional channels (e.g. movies and sports) or services (e.g. broadband, telephone or HD TV).

Don't forget that amidst all the technical jargon, help is at hand from the companies on this page!

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Barry Town's 'new blood' proves too much for Dinas in derby day tussle

BARRY manager Gavin Chesterfield introduced new blood into the side at Dinas Powys, including ex-premier league player (and prolific scorer) Ian Jones.

The game began as everyone expected, very competitively, but with neither side dominating, and play switching from end to end.

Barry then got the edge and scored a delightful goal in the 34th minute. Striker Josh Bell, who really looks the part with his movement and ability to find space, shook off his marker from just inside the box and hit a lovely controlled shot into the far corner of the Dinas net.

The half-time whistle came with Barry just on top.

The second half began with Dinas pressing strongly, creating several opportunities.

Former Barry player James Dixon created havoc with his pace and control, and but for some resolute defending from Barry's man-of-the-match Kirk Huggins and young defender Lewis Cosslett, might easily have equalised.

Centre back Kurt Bettles, a former Dinas player, had his hands full containing a lively Dinas No 9.

However, it was the Dragons who scored again shortly into the half, with the alert James Simpson latching on to a through ball and showing great composure, slipping the ball past Dinas 'keeper Craig Attard and into the net (2-0).

The village side then began to force Barry onto the back foot, bringing one superb save from Dan Bradley in the Barry goal.

They were rewarded for their efforts, however, when the ever-dangerous Dixon went outside the defender and crossed, and the officials ruled it a handball offence by a Town player, resulting in a penalty. Ricky Morgan expertly dispatched the spot-kick.

Barry's third goal of the game came deep into injury time, Ian Jones out-jumping the opposing keeper and heading into the net for his first goal in his first competitive league game for the club.

With new players needing time to bed in, it's early days for the Town. Overall, though, the signs look good for the season.

The 'Tour de Vale' attracts strong field

CYCLE racing fans will be out this Sunday, August 23 to welcome back the Wasp Road Race to Cowbridge.

Mayor Jon Harris will start the 70-mile race at 11.15am in the High Street, when 80 bike racers will compete on the same course set in 1985, taking in Ewenny, St Brides Major, Llantwit, Llandow and the Cowbridge by-pass, finishing at the petrol station at about 2pm.

All of the south Wales cycle clubs are represented, including the host club, Ogmore Valley Wheelers.

Their newly-promoted second category junior, Graham Howell, has had a two terrific seasons and is expected to do well.

Forza Cycles of Llantwit have their best men out and will not be under-estimating the challenge from the English clubs who have travelled hundreds of miles to take part in this well established event.

Look out for the results in next week's GEM.

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: *ggem@internet-today.co.uk*

TANDEMS ARE STILL GOING STRONG!

TANDEMS are inevitably associated with the old music hall song, where Daisy was told how good she would look on that "bicycle made for two" – but they are still going strong.

Spotted making their way around Porthcawl were husband and wife Andrew and Susan Jenkins from Newton, Porthcawl.

Both are keen cyclists, but they wanted to try out this 'old-fashioned' mode of transport, and they bought this model on e-bay!

It turned out that this was their first real run out on the new machine and they were still getting to grips with the special technique of cycling in 'close harmony' together.

Andrew is an occupational hygienist employed by Corus at Port Talbot Works, while Susan works in Barclays Bank, Porthcawl.

PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN

High-voltage engineers support Help for Heroes

ABOVE: Tim Swift of Help for Heroes (left) receives the cheque on behalf of the charity from SWALEC's John Brittain.

A CHARITY which supports injured servicemen and women has received a cash boost thanks to a team of safety conscious staff at SWALEC.

The high voltage team, totalling 20 staff in Bridgend, chose to donate £1,000 to Help for Heroes (H4H) after receiving an award in recognition of their outstanding safety record over the past year.

The award was made by the supplier's parent company, Scottish and Southern Energy, as part of its 'Make it Zero' campaign, aimed at helping staff to maintain their focus on safety first.

High voltage Wales and west manager, John Brittain said: "Working safely is our first priority and we are very pleased to have our safety record recognised in this way.

"We are all very proud that our team's safe working practices have enabled us to help such an important charity."

Tim Swift, H4H south Wales volunteer and fundraiser, added: "SWALEC made a fantastic decision when it decided to support Help for Heroes.

"The money the team has donated will be split amongst worthy causes that will help our brave injured servicemen and women to get their lives back to some sense of order."

WIN A CHANCE TO DRIVE A JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE FOR A WEEKEND with James & Jenkins and The Glamorgan GEM

2009 is a year of double celebrations for family owned and run car dealership James & Jenkins Garage in Station Road, Llandaff North, Cardiff.

Last month, managing director, Mark James announced the successful acquisition of Wales' only Chrysler Dodge & Jeep franchise and was delighted to unveil several of the iconic brand vehicles at the prestigious Vale Show, which took place at Fonmon Castle this week.

The company, which is also an approved Vauxhall after sales and service centre of excellence, will also be celebrating its 25th anniversary in October of this year.

To mark this double success story, James & Jenkins garages have joined forces with the **Glamorgan GEM** to give readers an opportunity to win the use of a brand new Jeep Grand Cherekee for a weekend. To be in with a chance of experiencing the superlative drive of this award winning American 4 x 4 for 48 hrs, simply answer the following question correctly:

Q. What iconic American franchise did James & Jenkins Garages announce the acquisition of last month?

Answers must be submitted on a post card or back of an envelope please, and must include the senders name, full address (including post code), and day time telephone number.

Send to:
James & Jenkins Garages (Grand Cherokee Weekend Competition) Station Road, Llandaff North, Cardiff, CF14 2FB.

Terms and conditions

Competion entrants must be aged 21 or over. The first correct answer selected at random will win the competition prize. Competition closes Fri 28 August. There is no cash alternative, and the prize is not transferable. James & Jenkins Garages reserve the right to select the date of delivery of the prize. For more information on James & Jenkins Garages and Crysler Dodge Jeep log on to www.jamesandjenkinsgarages.co.uk

Surf Cult is coming

SURF CULT – a celebration of the local surf culture – is coming to Porthcawl soon.

A series of events will be held in the town between September 9 and September 13.

They will include surfing competitions, beach activities, a visual arts exhibition, a film evening, a poems and pints evening and other arts activities taking place at Rest Bay beach and the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

One aspect will be the 'Seascape Exhibition' which will feature the work of local photographers Pete Bounds, Peter Britton, Peter Price and Dan Wood, who have explored the theme 'coastal history'.

PORTHCAWL SEA FESTIVAL

Check it out: **Sunday, 23rd August - Sunday, 30th August**

A good old-fashioned day out at the seaside is hard to beat!

THE fall in the £ and the rise of the Euro has meant that, all of a sudden, people are reassessing the merits of holidays in the UK.

The whole town of Porthcawl – from town council to chamber of trade – from pubs to restaurants – and from guest houses to hotels – are all looking to make the best of a new mindset among UK holidaymakers.

Porthcawl's Sea Festival (previewed in detail on the facing page) is a flagship event in the summer calendar of the resort.

It includes timeless attractions such as the sandcastle competition (below) and a Sunday Songs of Praise, in the peaceful setting of the town's harbour.

However, one thing that always makes visitors come back again and again is the coastline.

There are easy walks along the promenades of the town, stretching almost two miles.

Alternatively, the more able walker can set out through the sand dunes of Newton Burrows, or head west from Rest Bay until you reach the endless flat stretch that is Kenfig Sands.

Once again, Porthcawl is taking the chance to show people that it has something for everyone.

ABOVE: Some of the contestants in last year's sandcastle competition in Porthcawl. The Coney Beach event has become a favourite with both local and visitors. (See facing page for details)

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PORTHCAWL SEA FESTIVAL

Check it out: **Sunday, 23rd August - Sunday, 30th August**

IT'S A PACKED WEEK OF FUN AND MUSIC DURING PORTHCAWL'S SEA FESTIVAL

PORTHCAWL puts on its Sunday best for its Sea Festival - and it runs from Sunday (August 23) to the next Sunday (August 30).

The town always looks its best in the summer, and although the weathermen have disappointed a fair number of visitors who were expecting a scorching summer, Porthcawl's timeless assets still mark it out as a great place to visit.

What the town's Sea Festival does is to put that extra spice into an old familiar dish.

The week starts with a traditional event, the Sunday afternoon sing-a-long, 'Songs of Praise by the Sea' at Cosy Corner, alongside the harbour, starting at 2.30pm on August 23.

Organised by Churches Together in Porthcawl, the singers will be carried along by the Ogmore Valley Silver Band, who will be playing 'solo' from 2.30pm, followed at 3.15pm by a jazz break from Wayne Warlow.

At 3.30pm, the Porthcawl Choral Society and the Trinity Singers will lead the hymn singing.

On Monday, August 24, Gwyn Petty presents 'Porthcawl Past and Present' – an illustrated talk on the development of Porthcawl, at 7.30pm in the YMCA in John Street.

Entry is free (donations to the Mayor's Charity Fund). It is presented by the Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society

The next event is a new one on the sea festival calendar. Local author Hayley Williams has recently published a book looking at hauntings in the town.

This year, Hayley will be taking ghost hunters on a tour of the spectral hot spots, telling tales of the history of the places, and the sad and eerie tales behind the reported apparitions.

The tour is on Thursday, August 27, and starts at 8pm from the Farmers Arms in Nottage.

On Friday, there is one of the most popular events of the festival, the sandcastle competition for children (up to 11 years old). As usual, it takes place on the perfect castle-building sands of Coney Beach, between 9.30am and 11.30am.

In the evening, and rather more for the grown-ups, is the car treasure hunt, and entrants should gather at the Dock Street Car Park in Porthcawl, for a 6.30pm start.

Running alongside the sea festival, over five days (August 27 - 31) on The Green at Salt Lake Car Park, Bridgend Festival is running its own 'Fun in the Sun' event, with craft stalls, a food hall, a sports hall, trade stands and live music every day.

The big day of the Porthcawl Sea Festival, of course, is the Saturday (August 29) where the events are concentrated around the harbour.

The day starts when the Bridgend Jazz Band marches from the Grand Pavilion at 11.50am, before giving a 15-minute concert at Cosy Corner.

At 1pm, the intriguingly-named 'Alternative Morris Dancers' step out for a 30-minute performance.

Half an hour later (2pm), the Fire Service extrication team will be staging a demonstration of how they deal with the problem of removing road traffic collision victims safely from the wreckage.

At 2.30pm, the Porthcawl Line Dancing Group will be giving the afternoon a Country and Western interlude, and at 3.15pm the St John Ambulance will be giving a display.

Meanwhile, there will be a treat for the children, with a Teddy Bears Picnic (bring along a favourite bear), and there will even be a story time at 3.30pm.

There is more to come on Sunday (August 30) – at noon at Rest Bay, the local lifeguards will be putting on a demonstration.

Finally, in the evening two events clash. At 6pm, local historian John David will be giving a three-hour presentation on 'Porthcawl Past and Present' – complete with a slide show, at Porthcawl YMCA in John Street.

Meanwhile, for those of a more literary bent, there will be a 'poems and pints' evening at the Lorelei Hotel, Esplanade Avenue (7pm - 9pm).

Hosted by Porthcawl poet Robert Minhinnick, aspiring poets (and non-poets) are invited to read their own work, or their personal favourites.

Poems should be on the general theme of the sea or the coastline, and last year's mayor, Coun David Newton-Williams will be one of the readers.

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PORTHCAWL SEA FESTIVAL 2009

28th - 30th August

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For more information please contact Porthcawl Town Council on 01656 782215

Soroptimists send boxes of comfort to troops abroad

ABOVE: Club members with some of the items donated.

SEVERAL members of Soroptimist International, Barry and District, have close relatives who have served, or are serving, in conflicts abroad.

Knowing at first hand how much our forces appreciate gifts from home, they have been sending boxes to troops engaged in the war in Iraq since its commencement.

Members have particularly tried to target front line troops who are living in quite austere conditions, especially young men and women who often do not receive parcels from anyone at home.

Since last September 17, parcels have also been sent to Afghanistan, and members took the opportunity at a recent coffee morning to bring along items reported to be particularly welcomed, and pack boxes to be sent off within the next month.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this exercise has been the heart-warming letters the club has received from both commanding officers and the recipients, telling us how much this support from home means to them.

To find out more about Soroptimism visit www.soroptimist-gbi.org/

CSD

Castleland ward surgery

THE Vale councillors for Castleland Ward, Chris Elmore and Pamela Drake, and the Castleland Communities First team, will be holding a joint advice surgery for residents living on Bendrick and Hayes Roads, on Saturday, August 22 in the Atlantic Café between 10.30am-12pm.

All residents are welcome to attend.

Anyone who can't attend but who needs advice can contact Coun Elmore on 07867 506116.

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

THE latest results from Barrivale are as follows:

Tuesday, August 11: **1st** Betty Lewis and Mick Green 66.67 per cent; **2nd** Noelle Bond and Joan Jenkins 58.75 per cent; **3rd** Mark Roderick and Kay Dyer 57.50 per cent.

Betty and Mick also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information ring 01446 733425.

Art exhibition opens in Penarth

THE Washington Gallery, Penarth, is staging an exhibition by Vernon Jones, entitled Seascapes, from August 21-September 21.

A gallery spokeswoman said: "This exhibition draws together a selection of atmospheric seascape paintings. A predominant feature of the work is its accuracy and detail."

Bryn Hafren staff and families race for life

ABOVE: The staff and families of Bryn Hafren

BRYN Hafren Staff and families took part again this year in the Race for Life.

It was the first time that some of the staff had entered the race, with the usual stalwarts of the group, and everyone finished the course in a creditable time.

More than £500 was raised this year for this memorable cause.

Valeways' new walking guide

A NEW guide to 'easy access walking' locations across the Vale has been launched by Valeways, supported by Health Challenge Vale.

The guide is a collection of locations in the Vale where families, children, individuals with mobility concerns and those looking to exercise more can find easy walks. The locations range from country parks to surprisingly remote destinations.

Gareth Simpson of Valeways said: "In developing this guide with our volunteers, Val Warlow and Ray Price, I was aware that there was little information pointing people to easy walk locations."

This guide will help more people to experience our great coast and countryside."

The Easy Walking guides are now available at libraries and tourist information centres across the Vale.

For further information contact Valeways on 01446 749000 or at www.valeways.org.uk www.valeways.org.uk

Day out to celebrate achievements

YMCA VOLUNTEERS IN BARRY ARE REWARDED

RIGHT: The YMCA volunteers at the rock climbing centre.

ON Thursday, August 6, the Barry YMCA took nine of their young volunteers rock climbing for the day to celebrate their achievements and dedication to their volunteering roles.

The volunteers are aged from 14 to 19 and took part in activities such as gymnastics coaching, administration, play work and general maintenance.

In total, 28 young people volunteer up to nine hours a week of their time.

The volunteers are awarded with certificates (bronze, silver, gold and platinum) for the number of hours they complete. When reaching 100 hours, the young people receive Barry YMCA volunteer sweatshirts.

The rock climbing event enabled volunteer coordinator Tom Roberts and gymnastics development coordinator, Fay Benningwood, to spend a fun day out with the youngsters, made possible by the Vale of Glamorgan 14 to 19 Learning Network.

It took place at the Welsh International Rock Climbing Centre, Bargoed.

The morning was spent scaling the climbing walls, with a high ropes course in the afternoon.

All the volunteers worked to the best of their ability, reaching their own individual goals on heights up to 50ft!

A great amount of team work and confidence building was involved, ensuring everyone had a great day.

If you are interested in any volunteering opportunities at the Barry YMCA, contact Tom Roberts on 01446 724014.

Pupils say farewell to school in fine style

Barry Comprehensive sixth formers at their Valedictory.

ONE of the highlights of the Barry sixth form calendar is the annual valedictory dinner, where all the students get together for the last time to celebrate the end of their secondary education.

Months before the evening, they are all fussing over their outfits, boys with tuxedos and the girls in ball gowns, limousines are booked and the countdown to a wonderful evening begins.

This year's event, at the Novotel Hotel, provided a fitting conclusion to sixth form life with entertaining speeches and good company.

AC

Barry College gains up-graded award

BARRY College has become the first college in Wales to be accredited with the Investors in People Leadership and Management Model.

The college was first awarded IiP status in 2007 and has been re-accredited this year. However, the college decided to enhance its original accreditation by working towards the Leadership and Management model.

A college subsidiary, the Vale of Glamorgan Training Association, the largest college-based work-based learning provider in Wales, has also been re-accredited with IiP status and has gained the Leadership and Management Model.

The model, one of three enhancements to IiP status, comprises a framework for ensuring Barry College has the most effective leadership possible, and that managers are "role models" for improvement and development.

Barry College principal Paul Halstead said: "Employees are the greatest asset to any organisation and it is important to recognise the role that staff play, especially in a labour intensive environment such as further education.

"The college has one aim – to be an excellent college, and this enhanced IiP status is yet another way of working towards that goal."

Police urge 'sensible' GCSE celebrations

THE Safer Vale Partnership is reminding students in the Vale to behave responsibly when they celebrate their GCSE results on Thursday, August 27.

Chief Inspector Jim Hall said: "Many young people have worked hard for their exams and are looking forward to receiving their results next week.

"However, I would strongly advise parents not to purchase alcohol for their children to help them celebrate.

"We will be increasing our patrols in the parks and public open spaces across the Vale throughout the day to deter under age drinking and any anti social behaviour."

He went on: "The police in the Vale will work closely with our partners, including the Pulse team of detached youth workers who will be interacting with the young people in public places.

"The police and Trading Standards officers will also be conducting alcohol test purchasing in the coming weeks.

"My message to everyone who gets their results next week is to enjoy the day and celebrate your achievements sensibly and safely."

Cartoon role for TV's Ruth Jones

GAVIN and Stacey star Ruth Jones will soon be heard in a very different role – as a posh dinosaur.

Ruth, from Porthcawl but now Cardiff-based, is lending her voice to a new prehistoric preschool children's animation *Igam Ogam* which is currently being made in Cardiff by Calon TV.

ABOVE: Igam, whose adventures will be narrated by Wales' own Ruth Jones.

Ruth is narrating the series, which is the latest animation from Calon, whose creative team made the worldwide hits *Superted*, *Sali Mali*, *Fireman Sam* and the recent Bafta-winning series *Hana's Helpline*.

Igam Ogam is Jurassic Fun for little ones and Igam is a charming little cave-girl who faces the daily challenges of prehistoric life with invincible optimism!

The managing director of Calon, Robin Lyons, said: "We were delighted that Ruth Jones was able to find time in her busy schedule to narrate the series. She also plays a posh pterodactyl, a very different role to Nessa!"

Ruth has already been into the sound studios in Butetown to record her part for the series, which will be screened in Welsh on S4C starting in November and on Five in the spring.

Back to School...

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Children will gain confidence at the Nicola Peros Ballet School

NICOLA PEROS Ballet School, a member of The Royal Academy of Dance, starts the new term on Saturday, September 5 at St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry.

Dance is extremely popular with all ages and is a healthy, enjoyable activity.

The Nicola Peros Ballet School specialises in a range of dance styles, ballet, jazz and street. Three to four-year-olds can take weekly classes in creative dance which helps them to gain confidence and make new friends.

The dance school performs a ballet at the Memorial Hall each year and invites children of any age for a dance workshop on Saturday, September 5, at 2pm at St Nicholas Hall.

For further information, please call Nicola on 01446 721899.

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These schools include St Helen's, Sant Curig, Barry Island, Oakfield, Rhws, Barry Comprehensive and Barry Sixth form.

They have a changing room and are conveniently open seven days a week, and even offer an easy-plan uniform club to help save for the back to school period.

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Exam results? Careers Wales is here to help you

FOR many young people and their parents, the suspense of waiting for exam results can make for a stressful summer, especially in the current economic climate.

When results are finally out, those who did well will, hopefully, be able to put their career plans and ideas into action.

Some young people, however, who haven't decided what they want to do or haven't done as well as they expected, may need help to replan or rethink.

The message from Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale to anyone receiving exam results this summer is: "Don't panic – whatever your results, there are options open to you and lots of help to choose what's right for you."

As well as teachers and course tutors being available on A-level and GCSE results days, careers advisers will be visiting schools and colleges on those days to offer free information and advice.

Advisers will also be available at careers centres in Barry and Cardiff throughout the summer to help people with their future plans.

Clare Winnan, business manager at Barry Careers Centre, said: "Our advice to students is try not to make hasty decisions.

"Make sure you've got all the information you need, so that you can weigh up the pros and cons and make a decision based on what's best for you.

"We can help by offering free, impartial information about courses available, as well as employment and training opportunities."

For more information, contact your local careers centre in Barry (01446 410600) or Cardiff (029 2090 6700) or call our Learning and Careers Advice helpline 0800 100 900 (if calling from a mobile, please ring 029 2090 6801 - mobile rates apply).

Just got your exam results?

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WRITER'S RECOLLECTIONS OF WHEN GREYHOUND RACING CAME TO WALES

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

JUST over 80 years ago,on April 7, 1928, greyhound racing – which had been introduced to Britain two years earlier at Manchester's Belle Vue Stadium – came to Wales.

The first meeting took place at the now long gone Welsh White City Stadium at Sloper Road in the Grangetown area of Cardiff.

Owing to the persistent rain that fell that historic Easter Saturday, 'only' 9,000 spectators turned up, and when the first hurdle event was declared a no-race, because the dogs were so busy fighting each other that none of them completed the 470-yard track, the future of greyhound racing in Cardiff didn't look too promising.

However, fine weather on the Easter Monday saw some 25,000 people paying either 2s 4d or 5/ - to get into the stadium which, before the Second World War, had been a venue for football, rugby, speedway, athletics and other sporting events.

The Greyhound Racing Association (south Wales) had erected six kennels with accommodation for 180 dogs, and under the grandstand there was spacious accommodation for its members, who were provided with a lounge, bar, ladies' room, cloakroom, all for just two guineas a year.

Owners who intended to race their dogs at the track paid just a £1 a week and they could select any of the following trainers, Paddy Fortune (Cork), William Baldwin (London), Albert Carter (Somerset), DT Edwards (Wattstown) and T Phillips (Cardiff).

In those days, the greyhounds raced on turf, not sand, and this had been brought from Caerphilly mountain.

The stadium was said to be comparable with the big London tracks such as Wembley and White City, and 'the dogs' became so popular that soon afterwards another greyhound track was opened at the world famous Cardiff Arms Park.

Mick The Miller, the most famous greyhound in the history of the sport, set a world record of 29.55 seconds for the standard distance of 525 yards when winning the 1930 Welsh Greyhound Derby at the Sloper Road stadium.

Another famous greyhound to race there was *Beef Cutlet* trained by John Hegarty, who later became the racing manager at the Cardiff Arms Park track.

Beef Cutlet, won the 1933 Welsh Greyhound Derby, clocking 29.56 seconds, just .01 slower than Mick's tremendous time.

The opening of the greyhound track at the Cardiff Arms Park was reported to have been: "A triumph of pluck and perseverance". Men were still working on the track a few hours before the public were admitted and it was not until 6pm that the hurdle trials were held.

Despite the hustle and uncertainty, the meeting went off without a hitch and 5,000 fans are said to have had an interesting evening's sport, even though the grading of dogs was not what it might have been.

A band played during the intervals as the dogs paraded and a new type trackers' hare proved most satisfying.

When greyhound racing came to Newport's Somerton Park Stadium in the November of 1932, several thousand people waited an hour, after the fifth race, while electricians tried to remedy a mechanical defect in the flood-lighting.

Earlier, Alderman Fred Phillips formally opened the 'most modern Welsh track' and the South Wales Argus reporter wrote: "Whiz went the hare; fleet-footed sped the dogs after it, their legs and bodies craned to see those wonderfully intelligent animals jockey for the position near the rail.

"There were gasps of wonder and astonishment as newcomers to the sport saw the fastest animals trained on four legs leap gracefully over the hurdles."

Greyhound racing came to an end at the old Sloper Road track during the war years and at Somerton Park it finished in 1963 after the twice-weekly meetings attendances, every Tuesday and Friday, had dropped to hundreds rather then the 3,000 after the war crowds who had supported it.

A crowd of 700 gathered to witness the death knell of the sport in Newport and it was the mechanical hare, that had raced around the track a million times since 1932, which had the last laugh.

As the final race was about to start, the traps opened too soon – with the hare chasing the dogs for a change!

Len Davies, the secretary at Somerton Park, told a local newspaper: "Some of the best dogs in the country have raced at Somerton Park. Perhaps the best of them all was *Antartica*, a white bitch which set a track 450 yards record in a Somerton Stakes heat in 1958."

He also recalled that during the same year, three dogs – *Combined Hope*, *Finnerty* and *Maglin Breeze* – ran a triple dead heat, a very rare occurrence indeed.

Sadly, greyhound racing at Cardiff came to an end on July 30, 1977, because the Welsh Rugby Union needed the track to extend terracing at the National Stadium.

A total of 1,128 fans saw *Lillyput Queen*, owned by Cardiff butcher Malcolm Davies and trained by Freddie Goodman, win the last race.

Cardiff City Council had taken less than 10 minutes to reject a plan to switch greyhound racing to Maindy Stadium.

No longer would enthusiasts flock there to see well- known greyhounds such as *Shaggy Lass* (1945), *Trev's Perfection* (1947), *Ballylanigan Tanist* (1951), *Endless Gossip* (1952), *Mile Bush Pride* (1959) and *Patricia's Hope* (1972), who all won the Welsh Greyhound Derby.

Bursaries for youngsters in rural Vale?

THE 'Inspiring the Vale Bursaries' have been set up to assist individuals or groups of young people aged 30 years or under to start a new business or community enterprise in the rural Vale.

Bursaries may be awarded for up to 75 per cent of the cost of the support needed.

The project is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and offers two types of bursary.

One is the taster bursary, in which £1,000 is available, and the second is a full time bursary in which up to £3,000 is available.

For further information and a full list of applicant criteria, contact Nia Hollins on 01446 775388 or email:nhollins@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

New Chief Constable takes charge in S Wales

PETER VAUGHAN has been appointed as the new Chief Constable for South Wales Police.

The current South Wales Deputy Chief Constable was selected by the Police Authority to take over from current Chief Barbara Wilding from January 1, 2010.

Mr Vaughan (46) from Merthyr Tydfil, started his career with South Wales Police in 1984.

He left the force briefly in 2003 to become Assistant Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police, before returning as Assistant Chief Constable in January 2007.

He took up the post of Deputy Chief Constable for the force in April 2007.

Mr Vaughan said: "I am absolutely thrilled to be named the next Chief Constable for South Wales."

Another exclusive GEM reader competition in conjunction with the National BBQ Association

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Hot summer provides an opportunity to get into the barbecue spirit!

DESPITE all the talk about the credit crunch, economic recession and doom and gloom, there is one thing set to bring a smile to faces in the UK; summer is on it's way and with it comes the 13th National BBQ 2009© campaign, featuring the 13th National BBQ Week™, the 2nd Alfresco Food Fortnight© and the 3rd Have a Better Barbi Day©!

The UK has had some gorgeous weather this summer, so what better excuse could you need to fire up the barbeque, invite friends and family around and make the most of the sunshine?

Eating alfresco, whether it's an impromptu barbeque or weekend party, is a gret way to enjoy yourself in your own home and garden. With this is mind, the theme of the 13th National BBQ - Gastro Alfresco© campaign says it all - ***'Staying in is the new going out!'***

However, it's not just about weekends anymore, as over 40% of all barbecue and alfresco occasions are now accounted for mid-week.

Now in its 13th highly successful year, the National BBQ Association is building on the Gastro Alfresco theme first introduced in 2007. The 2009 campaign highlights the better budget barbi options that mean ***'Staying in is the new going out!'***

The national BBQ Association has drawn some world-famous brands into the 2009 campaign – ***Bacofoil*** is supporting the campaign for 2009 as a ***Roadshow Partner,*** and ***Crabbie's Alcoholic Ginger Beer*** is on board as an official ***Gastro Barbi Partner*** following it's launch earlier this year.

Crisp, refreshing and with an ABV of 4%, ***Crabbie's Alcoholic Ginger Beer*** is the perfect accompaniment to summer BBQs.

Also on board as a ***Roadshow partner*** this year are ***Caribbean Twist*** ready to drink cocktails, including Mojito, Pina Colada and Mixed Mango. Also teaming up with the National BBQ Association for 2009 is ***Fruitiser,*** the gently sparkling 100% fruit juice drink, set to add some serious fruitiness to any BBQ this summer as the official ***soft drinks partner.***

Gallo Family Vineyards is the official ***wine partner*** of this years National BBQ Association Gastro Alfresco campaign. The award-winning E & J Gallo Winery will be showcasing a selection of Gallo Family Vineyard wines throughout the summer period – demonstrating that there is a quality wine for every alfresco get-together with friends and family.

Grand Marnier has become the ***official long summer drink partner*** and is encouraging us all to try their simple ***Grand Esprit,*** a refreshing yet exotic mix of Grand Marnier, elderflower cordial, sodawater, served over ice and garnished with orange slices and strawberries.

Another area is bakery, with ***Mission,*** the tortilla and wrap manufacturer becoming the official ***bakery partner.***

The ***6th Alfresco Experience Roadshow***© will also once again be taking to the road, but this time it will be even bigger and better than ever with a more 'at home alfresco' look and feel. Centred on large demonstration trailers, which not only incorporate a full catering kitchen, here is also a stage with a BBQ and chef, plus garden tables and chairs all set on an astro turf base to create that barbeque atmosphere.

The ***Alfresco Experience Roadshow*** will visit over 140 Tesco Extras and Sainsbury's, Asda and Morrisons superstores across Britain this summer, between late May and early September.

Find out when the ***Alfresco Experience Roadshow*** will be in your area at www.gastro-alfresco.co.uk

Further information on the ***National BBQ Association's National BBQ 2009© Campaign, National BBQ Week™, Alfresco Food Fortnight***©, or any of the other exciting events planned for summer '09, log on to: **www.nationalbbq.co.uk/ www.gastro-alfresco.co.uk**

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Out and About with The GEM

Action film fails to convince Screen Talk

G.I. JOE? TRY G.I. OH NO!

AS the TRANSFORMERS franchise continues to gobble up money left, right and centre like a particularly hungry Devastator, it only proves the theory that toys equal big bucks.

The latest plastic collective to try their luck is GI Joe in *GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra*. We see the story through the eyes of Duke (Channing Tatum), a soldier carrying a biological weapons package who is attacked by a mysterious group of individuals.

Duke and his colleague Ripcord (Marlon Wayans) are rescued by the group known as GI Joe, and take the weapons, created by James McCullen (Christopher Ecclestone), back to their base. However, McCullen isn't quite what he seems, and is intent on stealing back the weaponry for his own maniacal ends, assisted by The Baroness (Sienna Miller)...

There seems to have been a whole lot of things poured into *GI Joe* – explosions, huge set-pieces, CGI effects, muscle men and not-unattractive women. Yet sadly, the only things missing are the key ingredients that actually make a film good, with elements such as plot, decent acting, logic and a strong script taking a back seat to Stephen Sommers' expansive-yet-ludicrous direction, and the result is a film that is dumber than a coach load of Paris Hiltons.

Now there is the argument that summer releases such as these should only concern themselves with spectacle, that things such as dialogue and character motivation are just necessary evils that are sidelined by the big bangs that undemanding audiences enjoy.

Yet the success of the likes of *The Dark Knight* have attested to the fact that Hollywood need not make blockbuster films that appeal to the lowest common denominator – a fact that has been ignored by the makers of *GI Joe*.

There is barely a smidge of intelligence invested in this film, a lazy mess that feels shoddy, lackadaisical, and utterly worthless. It is a film that lacks any redeeming qualities whatsoever, a feeble attempt at creating a new franchise, and one that has the hallmarks of a film prefaced with the phrase 'A film by Stephen Sommers'.

Despite it being only 10 years since he first came to prominence with *The Mummy*, since then Sommers has perfected the art of making films as unintelligible as possible, complete with dialogue that is plain awkward and an over-reliance on computers creating action sequences. The weak *Mummy Returns* and *Van Helsing* are prime examples of this, yet compared to *GI Joe*, the latter in particular resembles a minimalistic art-house film in comparison.

It isn't that Sommers lacks the basics of direction, more that he seems comfortable only when conjuring up explosions and bangs than paying attention to the minutiae of storylines. Much like that famed lover of golden sunsets Michael Bay, he is a director who is technically proficient, yet so over reliant on cliché that he'll never be taken seriously by more discerning film goers.

Here, he simply rehashes elements from other films, the lairs of the two groups feeling like rip-offs of Ken Adams' bold sets for the likes of *You Only Live Twice*, while the climactic underwater battle has more than a faint whiff of the Death Star battle at the end of *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

With a script by the inconsistent Stuart Beattie, along with storyline input from Sommers, and the equally inept David Elliot, you have the basis of something so woeful that Sommers' poor direction merely exacerbates the numerous issues that affect the film.

With some of the most woeful lines of dialogue heard this year (after ordering a woman out of a lift, The Baroness adds "Nice shoes"), coupled with a nonsensical plot that seems to have borrowed liberally from *Team America* (a satirical comedy on American foreign policy remember), it's hardly surprising the film plumbs such depths.

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Acting-wise, you have some very good actors severely slumming it, and seemingly treating the film with the disdain it deserves. Channing Tatum may be tipped to be one of the many 'next big things' but here he's as dunderheaded a hero you could have with a performance to match.

With the likes of Marlon Wayans, an unrecognisable Joseph Gordon Levitt (who looks oddly like the late Michael Jackson) and Sienna Miller, all failing to justify why the occupation of actor is on their passport.

While Miller and Rachel Nichols enjoy a push-up-bra contest, Jonathan Pryce, Christopher Ecclestone and Dennis Quaid all put in the minimum amount of effort required and offer absolutely nothing.

It's apt that in a film based on a toy range, the performances are the epitome of plastic banality. While the *Transformers* appear to be going from strength to strength (despite the last film's similarly dodgy reception), this is one franchise that should be melted down, no questions asked.

VERDICT – The lowest of the low, *GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra* is an absolute disaster of a film. Useless performances from a cast who appear not to be bothered, a script that appears to have been written by idiots, and yet more unsubtle direction from Stephen Sommers, adds up to a complete waste of time.

Fans of the franchise should get their old toys out and make their own film; it will be infinitely better than this pile of rubbish. *Avoid at all costs*.

The Alarm to headline Barry Waterfront Festival

ONE of the most popular Welsh rock bands, The Alarm, will headline at the free live music stage at Barry Waterfront on Saturday, September 5, along with the Cowbridge band, The Automatic.

The Alarm have been in the rock n roll business for more than 30 years and can lay claim to 15 top 50 UK singles.

Joining them will be local heroes The Automatic. They hit the big time with their huge single 'Monster' and they went on to have further chart success with singles 'Raoul' and 'Steve McQueen'.

The Automatic will be on stage at 6.30pm on Saturday, followed by The Alarm at 8pm.

The festival stage will host a two-day programme of free live music on Saturday and Sunday, September 6.

It will close on Sunday with the Motown and soul sensations, Big Mac's Wholly Soul Band, at 5pm.

The two-day festival will also includes visits from The Tall Ships *Stavros S Niarchos*; and *The Matthew*, a full size replica of John Cabot's ship which discovered Newfoundland more than 500 years ago, and also the Royal Navy mine hunter *HMS Blyth*. All vessels will be open to public over the weekend.

People can also relive the golden age of steam and enjoy the unique experience of a footplate ride on the Great Western Pannier Tank locomotive number 9466.

The Barry Rail Centre – Heritage Rail – will be operating 'out and back' shuttle trips from the Good Shed Site Station at the Barry Rail Centre from 10am-5pm each day. Fares: £5 for adults and £3 for children.

The festival will also include a variety of craft and food stalls, bar area, nautical themed street entertainers, face painting and a fairground.

Entrance to the festival and the live music area is free. Charges apply for ship tours, train rides, fairground and concessions.

Please note, no alcohol or dogs are allowed onto the live music stage site.

Blues to guest at park fun day

A 'Family Fun Day Finale' will take place on August 21, 11am-3pm at Porthkerry Park, Barry.

The event, organised by the Vale Council, is the climax of a fun-filled summer programme.

Play workers will be on hand to encourage families to experience a range of play activities, including mod roc, water-based play, arts and crafts, and den building.

The Porthkerry Park Rangers will offer young people and adults the opportunity to make wood cookies, and to take part in the wildlife trail activity.

The 5x60 and Dragon Sports officers will also be there to offer sports taster activities in athletics, golf and volleyball, and they will be joined by representatives from Vale Karate.

Cardiff Blues representatives will be special guests at the event, with a player on hand to sign autographs and assist in some rugby taster sessions.

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24, 25, 26, 27, 31 August 2.30pm, 3.30pm

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Musicals Summer School; Mon 24 – Fri 28 August

Bank Holiday Picnic Theatre
Shakespeare's Globe brings *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to St Donats Castle gardens
Mon 31 August 6.30pm

Vale of Glamorgan Festival of Music
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Dunlin Court	58	Gold	07/09/06
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Jenner Road	100	Gold	06/01/09
Nicholl Court	64	Gold	16/12/08
Philippa Freeth	10	Gold	07/09/06
Salisbury Court	66	Gold	06/01/09
St Govans Close	8	Silver	30/04/09
Ty Cerrig	12	Bronze	13/03/07
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HAS SEARCH FOR A STAR FINALLY ENDED?

COWBRIDGE pupils ended the Cardiff & the Vale Schools track and field season on a high note by winning the boys' team competition and finishing fourth in the girls' section.

For the last 30 years, the year-7 championships have been held as a long, all-day event for boys and girls, usually at Jenner Park and starting at 10am and finishing at 5pm.

Following problems at the 2008 championships, it was decided this year to split into separate afternoons for boys and girls and the change seemed to work well.

In the boys' events, it was interesting to see a possible solution emerging to a long-standing Cowbridge problem. The Messrs Williams – the now retired Hugh and the still contributing Glan – have long expressed their disappointment that they have been unable to unearth a quality sprinter.

Not since the days of ginger-haired Neil Powell in the '90s have they had a boy who can make his mark at Cardiff & the Vale level, or beyond, over 100 metres.

It is very early days, but in George Griffiths they may have found one. In the second half of the meeting, after the relay heats and some of the field events, the young Griffiths won his 100 heat easily, clocking 13.4 seconds into a 1.7 metres head wind, and then went on to take the A final in 13.2 seconds, but aided with a following wind.

That A final provided Cowbridge with 29 of their 225 team points, with Griffiths claiming 17 for his win and team-mate Harry Dowell-Bennett adding another 12 for his fifth place.

There was further success for young Griffiths in the field where he won the long jump with a leap of 4.67 metres, and claimed third place in the high jump thanks to a clearance at 1.40 metres. In the last event of the day, he ran a leg for the Cowbridge team which won the A relay final.

There were four more Vale winners. After his fifth place in the 100 metres, Harry Dowell-Bennett contested the shot, in which he finished seventh, and the discus, which he won with a best throw of 22.47 metres, while his team-mate Josh Thomas was the fastest of the 48 boys who competed in the 800 metres time-trials.

Llantwit had two winners, Hugo Billington in the shot and Ben Brown in the 1,000 metres walk.

The Vale girls matched and almost bettered the boys' performances.

In Chelsea Siirak, they had arguably the top sprinter in action. In the first half of the meeting, the Bro Morgannwg pupil was easily the top 200 metres runner, winning her heat with the fastest time (29.2) of the day and taking the A final in a slightly slower 29.5.

In the 100 metres, after the relay heats, she won her heat in 14.8 and was first to finish in the A final but was disqualified. She bounced back to help the Bro Morgannwg quartet to win the A relay final.

The two middle distance time-trials were dominated by girls who had represented Cardiff & the Vale district at last February's Welsh Schools National cross-country championships.

In the 800, Cowbridge pupils had the two fastest times, with Jordan Carpenter winning and Annabel Curle, who won the high jump at 1.35 metres, finishing second, while Kate Coker (Stanwell, 5:29.7) was faster than Erin Hayes (Llantwit, 5:34.1) over 1,500 metres.

On the field, in addition to Curle's victory in the high jump, there was success in the throws for Ellis Auclas (St Cyres, 17.50m) in the discus and Danielle Dakin-Weston (Llantwit, 19.82) in the javelin.

In the team competitions, mention must be made of one other performance. In finishing third in the boys' section, St Cyres produced its best result for many years.

All the pupils, who won events at these two championships, are due to receive their awards at the Cardiff & the Vale Schools' Track & Field Presentation Evening, which will be held at Cardiff High School on Tuesday, September 8, starting at 7pm.

Vale results: **Year-7 boys** - Jenner Park – 100: Ht 1 (-0.1): 1 Che Pomphrey (St Cy) 13.5; Ht 2 (-3.3): 5 Joshua Slack (St Rich G) 16.4; Ht 3 (-2.0): 4 Gethin Evans-Cooper (Bro M) 15.0; 5 John Fraser (Barry) 15.8; Ht 4 (+0.8): 3 Ben Murphy (Lwt) 14.7; 4 Nick Sherrin (Barry) 14.9; Ht 5 (-0.2): 1 Jake Keating (St Cy) 14.0; Ht 6 (+1.9): 3 Joel Lapton (Stan) 14.4; Ht 7 (+1.5): 2 Niall Curtin (Stan) 14.9; 3 Robert Tucker (St Rich G) 15.6; 4 Kellen Gregg (West) 15.9; Ht 8 (-1.7): 1 George Griffiths (Cow) 13.4; 2 Frank Peake (Bro M) 15.1; 3 Rhys Buglar (Lwt) 15.3; Ht 9 (-0.7): 1 Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 13.6; 5 Sam Sharpe (West) 16.0; A Fin (+1.2): 1 George Griffiths (Cow) 13.2; 4 Che Pomphrey (St Cy) 13.5; 5 Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 13.8; B Fin (-1.6): 2 Jake Keating (St Cy) 13.9; C Fin (-2.1): 6 Joel Lapton (Stan) 16.1.

200: Ht 1 (+1.5): 2 Sam Laity (West) 28.8; 6 Alex Griffiths (Lwt) 32.2; Ht 2 (+2.1): 3 Zak Summerhayes (West) 31.1; Ht 3 (+1.9): 1 Joe Gaughan (Cow) 29.6; 2 Connor Clarke (Lwt) 30.0; 3 Duncan Kieling (Stan) 30.3; 6 Jamie Raisis (Barry) 33.3; Ht 4 (+0.3): 1 Che Pomphrey (St Cy) 28.1; 2 James Walsh (Bro M) 29.4; 3 Oliver Evans (Cow) 29.7; Ht 5 (+2.7): 1 Callum Smith (St Cy) 27.6; 3 Joel Lapton (Stan) 31.4; Ht 7 (+2.6): 5 Tom Bellamy (St Rich G) 36.6; Ht 8 (+0.9): 5 Anthony Goddard (Barry) 33.8; 6 Callum Crabbe (St Rich G) 33.9; Ht 9 (+2.6): 1 Gethin Evans-Cooper (Bro M) 28.2; A Fin (-0.7): 2 Che Pomphrey (St Cy) 27.6; 3 Callum Smith (St Cy) 27.6; 5 Gethin Evans-Cooper (Bro M) 30.3; B Fin (+1.8): 1 Sam Laity (West) 28.0; C Fin (-2.8): 1 Joe Gaughan (Cow) 29.8; 2 James Walsh (Bro M) 29.9; 4 Oliver Evans (Cow) 30.5.

800: 1 Joshua Thomas (Cow) 2:28.6; 3 Ben Owen (Lwt) 2:30.1; 4 Cameron Jones (Cow) 2:32.9; 6 Tomos Havard (St Cy) 2:37.6; 17 Iwan Mepham (Bro M) 2:49.3; 18 Lucas Jones (Barry) 2:49.4; 22 Tim Harry (Stan) 2:50.7; 24 Calvin McCann (Barry) 2:55.2; 26 Joe Solomon (Lwt) 2:55.6; 27 Daniel Bell (St Rich G) 2:56.9; 28 Kieran Daw (St Cy) 2:57.1; 34 Mitchell Heffernant (St Rich G) 3:01.6; 36 Joseph Richards (Bro M) 3:03.2; 40 Kellen Gregg (West) 3:06.7.

1,500: 2 Dafydd George (Bro M) 5:25.8; 4 Rhys Schuster (St Cy) 5:32.2; 6 Iwan Thomas (Bro M) 5:34.6; 8= Arran Bright (Lwt) 5:35.8; 13 Mark Radz (Barry) 5:39.7; 14 Tom Owen (Cow) 5:41.9; 24 Scott Townsend (Barry) 5:56.6; 26 Robert Tucker (St Rich G) 5:59.1; 29 Jordan Row (St Rich G) 6:01.3; 30 James Humage (Stan) 6:01.6; 31 Caynan Bowen (St Cy) 6:02.0; 32 Connor Beattie (Lwt) 6:05.6.

75H: Ht 1 (+1.0): 4 Alan Evans (Bro M) 15.3; 5 Harry Simpson (St Cy) 15.3; Ht 2 (-2.9): 2 Kieran Daw (St Cy) 15.3; 5 Jack Burbidge (Bro M) 15.8; Ht 3 (+1.2): 3 Reece Bennett (Lwt) 15.4; 4 Duncan Kieling (Stan) 15.5; Ht 4 (-2.9): 5 Connor Beattie (Lwt) 17.1; 6 George Kynaston (Stan) 17.2; Ht 5 (+0.9): 1 Brad Rosser (Cow) 14.9; 2 Jamie Raisis (Barry) 16.1; 4 Ashley Steer (St Rich G) 16.5; Ht 6 (+2.4): 2 Tyler Rogers (Cow) 14.6; 4 Daniel Brock (Barry) 17.5; 5 Jack Marshman (St Rich G) 17.7; A Fin (+2.6): 3 Tyler Rogers (Cow) 14.4; B Fin (+0.9): 1 Brad Rosser (Cow) 14.5; C Fin (+0.7): 2 Harry Simpson (St Cy) 15.3; 3 Alan Evans (Bro M) 15.3; 4 Kieran Daw (St Cy) 15.4; 5 Rhys Bennett (Lwt) 15.7.

4x100: Ht1: 1 Cowbridge 53.9; 3 Stanwell 58.3; Ht3: 1 Bro Morgannwg 58.2; 4 Westbourne 60.0 1; 5 Barry 62.7; Ht 4: 1 St Cyres 55.7; 3 Llantwit Major 58.6; 5 St Richard Gwyn 63.6; A Fin: 1 Cowbridge 55.0; 2 St Cyres 55.3; B Fin: 2 Stanwell 58.2; 3 Bro Morgannwg 58.3; 4 Llantwit Major 59.2.

1,000 Walk: 1 Ben Brown (Lwt) 5:56.8; 8 Josh Richmond (Barry ns) 6:45.0; 9 Tom Havard (St Cy) 6:56.6; 10 Marcus Knevett (Cow) 7:07.0; 11 Leon Clifford (Barry ns) 7:14.5; 12 Theo Richards (Barry ns) 7:16.0; 13 Lewis Foran (Barry) 7:21.3; 14 Gareth Hurman (Barry) 7:22.1; 15 Gareth Peake (Bro M) 7:22.3.

HJ: 3 George Griffiths (Cow) 1.40; 6 Declan Thomas (Cow) 1.25; 8 Gareth Peake (Bro M) 1.25; 9= Gethin Evans-Cooper (Bro M) 1.20; 14 Tim Harry (Stan) 1.20; 18 Jake Sutch (Lwt) 1.20; 22 Kieran Daw (St Cy) 1.15; 28 Tom Bellamy (St Rich G) 1.10; Scott Townsend (Barry) & Iori More (West) nh.

LJ: 1 George Griffith (Cow) 4.67; 4 Che Pomphrey (St Cy) 4.18; 5 Callum Smith (St Cy) 4.13; 10 Joshua Thomas (Cow) 3.99; 11 Alan Evans (Bro M) 3.98; 20 Iwan Mepham (Bro M) 3.71; 21 Duncan Keeling (Stan) 3.68; 23 Dylan Robertson (West) 3.67; 25 Calum Hughes (Stan) 3.61; 28 Ben Murphy (Lwt) 3.56; 29 Iorri Moore (West) 3.50; 39 Rees Bennett (Lwt) 3.21; 40 John Frazer (Barry) 3.19; 41 Callum Crabbe (St Rich G) 3.16; 42 Rhys Davis-Herbert (Barry) 3.11; 44 Taylor Fiddler (St Rich G) 2.87.

SP: 1 Hugo Billington (Lwt) 9.65; 2 Sam Laity (West) 9.05; 3 Joe Gaughan (Cow) 9.00; 4 Rhys Forse (Barry) 8.94; 7 Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 8.59; 9 Nigel Lucero (St Cy) 8.29; 11 Richard Evans (Bro M) 7.84; 12 Cengiz Ziyaiddin (Stan) 7.83; 17 Ben Brown (Lwt) 7.38; 23 Trenton Scantlebury (St Cy) 7.16; 24 Jordan Case (Barry) 6.96; 32 David Bell (St Rich G) 6.29; 33 Jacob Conway (Bro M) 6.29; 35 Matthew Holder (Stan) 6.26; 42 Ashley Steer (St Rich G) 5.71; 45 Paul Hicks (West) 5.25.

DT: 1 Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 22.47; 3 Hugo Billington (Lwt) 19.02; 4 Nigel Lucero (St Cy) 17.34; 7 Joe Richards (Bro M) 15.75; 10 Cengiz Ziyaeddin (Stan) 14.65; 13 Mitchell Hesseman (St Rich G) 14.05; Lucas Jones (Barry) nt.

JT: 2 Harry Stubbington (Cow) 26.47; 3 Jack Sutton (Lwt) 25.16; 5 Iwan Mepham (Bro M) 24.03; 6 Daniel Brook (Barry) 21.85; 11 Harry Simpson (St Cy) 20.50; 13 Kellen Greg (West) 19.69; 20 Jack Hazelwood (St Rich G) 12.52; 22 George Kynaston (Stan) 11.25.

Team: 1 Cowbridge 225; 3 St Cyres 155; 5 Bro Morgannwg 109; 8 Llantwit 91; 14 Barry 41; 15 Westbourne 31; 16= Stanwell 24; 25 St Richard Gwyn 4.

Year-7 girls – Jenner Park – 100: Ht 1 (-0.8): 4 Meg Langton-Cryer (Cow) 16.6; Ht 2 (-0.8): 2 Niamh Gallagher (Cow) 15.5; 3 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 15.6; Ht 3 (-2.2): 3 Millie Jones (Bro M) 15.8; 6 Kirsty Hogg (St Cy) 17.2; Ht 4 (-2.8): 2 Paige Lewis (St Cy) 16.5; Ht 6 (-2.3): 3 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 15.4; 4 Sophia Swaffield (St Rich G) 16.4; Ht 7 (-2.2): 2 Imogen Sibert (Stan) 15.7; 4 Phoebe Nixon (Lwt) 17.2; Ht 8 (-2.8): 1 Chelsea Sirak (Bro M) 14.8; 2 Shanella Evans (Lwt) 14.9; 4 Gabby King (St Rich G) 16.3; 6 Siobhan Lewis (Bryn H) 19.4; A Fin (-3.4): 3 Shanella Evans (Lwt) 15.1; Disq Chelsea Siirak (Bro M); B Fin (-2.9): 2 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 15.5; C Fin (-1.1): 1 Niamh Gallagher (Cow) 15.4; 4 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 15.8; 5 Imogen Sibert (Stan) 16.0.

200: Ht 1 (-1.2): 3 Angharad Poole (Cow) 32.6; 5 Gabby King (St Rich G) 35.2; Ht 3 (-0.2): 1 Chelsea Siirak (Bro M) 29.2; 4 Paige Lewis (St Cy) 33.5; 6 Phoebe Paley (Stan) 34.9; Ht 4 (-0.1): 2 Ellie Atkinson (Lwt) 31.1 Ht 5 (-1.9): 1 Paige Jones (St Rich G) 31.9; 3 Elllie Cridland (Cow) 33.9; 6 Nikita Statham (Bryn H) 38.1; Ht 6 (-0.4): 2 Tamara Summerhayes (St Cy) 33.0; Ht 7 (-0.6): 3 Zola Hargreaves (Stan) 32.7; Ht 8 (-0.8): 1 Millie Jones (Bro M) 30.9; Ht 9: 2 Alannah Goss (Lwt) 34.1; 4 Laura Spencer (Bryn H) 37.6; A Fin: 1 Chelsea Siirak (Bro M) 29.5; 4 Millie Jones (Bro M) 30.7; B Fin (0.6): 1 Ellie Atkinson (Lwt) 31.0; C Fin (-0.4): 1 Paige Jones (St Rich G) 31.5; 4 Zola Hargreaves (Stan) 33.0; 5 Angharad Poole (Cow) 33.1.

800: 1 Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 2:40.6; 2 Annabel Curle (Cow) 2:43.4; 4 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 2:52.7; 5 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 2:53.9; 16 Leah Wanger (Stan) 3:09.2; 18 Ruby Morgan (Bro M) 3:09.7; 19 Caitlin Young (Bro M) 3:09.8; 23 Laura Gale (Stan) 3:14.5; 29 Laura Braggins (Lwt) 3:24.6; 32 Jessie Price (Lwt) 3:28.9; 36 Abby Lee (St Rich G) 3:34.4; 37 Rachel Shalom (St Rich G) 3:36.2; 39 Abbie Keen (St Cy) 3:40.9.

1,500: 1 Kate Coker (Stan) 5:29.7; 2 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 5:34.1; 3 Lauren Williamson (St Rich G) 5:36.4; 6 Chloe Lewis (Stan) 5:59.1; 14 Georgina Wilson-Dixon (St Cy) 6:24.1; 15 Lydia Parsons (Lwt) 6:25.4; 17 Charlie Bowen (Bro M) 6:28.7; 19 Olivia Brown (Cow) 6:30.2; 22 Ffion Davies (Bro M) 6:33.8; 25 Alex Moss (St Rich G) 6:38.8; 27 Chelsea Newman (Bryn H) 6:40.7; 29 Sophie Thomas (Cow) 6:47.1; 35 Tamara Summerhayes (St Cy) 7:28.2; 40 Rowan Smith (Bryn H) 7:48.3.

70H: Ht 1 (-0.6): 2 Jessica Morgan (Bro M) 14.9; Ht 2 (1.6): 1 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 13.8; 5 Lora Spencer (Bryn H) 17.4; Ht 3 (-0.2): 2 Jennifer Hampton (Bro M) 13.6; Ht 4 (0.5): 1 Sarah Lewis (Cow) 14.1; 3 Amy Drew (Lwt) 14.8; 4 Alisa Jones (Stan) 16.2; 5 Charlotte Hobbs (St Cy) 16.5; Ht 5 (0.3): 6 Natasha Small (St Cy) 17.9; Ht 6 (-0.2): 4 Kate Coker (Stan) 17.1; 5 Chloe James (Bryn H) 17.8; Ht 7 (-1.4): 2 Emily Ward (Lwt) 15.6; 4 Shanon Williams (St Rich G) 17.1; Ht 8 (-0.5): 1 Sophia Swaffield (St Rich G) 15.0; A Fin (-1.6): 2 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 13.4; 3 Jennifer Hampton (Bro M) 13.8; B Fin (0.6): 1 Sarah Lewis (Cow) 14.1; C Fin (-0.4): 1 Amy Drew (Lwt) 14.5; 2 Jessica Morgan (Bro M) 14.5; 3 Sophia Swaffield (St Rich G) 14.6.

4x100: Ht1: 1 Bro Morgannwg 58.6; 3 St Richard Gwyn 63.7; Ht2: 2 Cowbridge 61.1; 3 Llantwit Major 61.3; Ht3: 1 Stanwell 62.1; 3 St Cyres 66.2; Ht 4: 4 Bryn Hafren 67.5; A Fin: 1 Bro Morgannwg 58.6; B Fin: 1 Cowbridge 60.2; 3 Llantwit Major 61.6; 5 Stanwell 62.5.

1,000 Walk: 5 Megan Dancey (Bro M) 6:41.0; 6 Kate Llewellyn (Cow) 6:41.8; 7 Kate Spence (St Rich G) 6:46.0; 8 Jessica Morgan (Bro M) 6:47.2; 10 Elenor Morgan (Cow) 7:02.7; 11 Suzie Collins (Stan) 7:09.0; 14 Sophie Lee (Lwt) 7:23.3; 17 Taylor Sullivan (St Rich G) 7:26.7; 21 Adele Mortimer (Lwt) 8:01.2.

HJ: 1 Annabel Curle (Cow) 1.35; 8 Kate Spencer (St Rich G) 1.15; 11 Jennifer Hampton (Bro M) 1.15; 13 Charlotte Hobbs (St Cy) 1.15; 20= Jessica Morgan (Bro M) 1.10; 20= Amy Drew (Lwt) 1.10 & Issie Eddie Williams (Cow) 1.10; 28= Lauren Williamson (St Rich G) 1.05 & Laura Gale (Stan) 1.05; 32= Rowan Smith (Bryn H) 1.05; 37 Emily Ward (Lwt) 1.05; 38= Lauren Bailey (St Cy) 1.00; Nikita Statham (Bryn H) nh; Megan O'Brien (Stan) nh.

LJ: 3 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 3.60; 4 Shanella Evans (Lwt) 3.59; 7 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 3.50; 8 Nagan Dancey (Bro M) 3.43; 10 Sarah Lewis (Cow) 3.40; 12 Lilly Evans (Bro M) 3.35; 16 Izzy Eddie Williams (Cow) 3.26; 17 Leah Wenger (Stan) 3.25; 18 Ellie Atkinson (Lwt) 3.22; 21 Kirsty Hogg (St Cy) 3.06; 28 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 2.97; 39 Lauren Bailey (St Cy) 2.57; 41 Angelina Hoyle (St Rich G) 2.55; 43 Abby Dee (St Rich G) 2.48.

SP: 3 Lydia Hitchings (Cow) 7.09; 4 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 7.05; 10 Taylor Sullivan (St Rich G) 6.58; 11 Danielle Dakin-Weston (Lwt) 6.48; 12 Melissa Lewis (St Cy) 6.42; 26 Adele Mortimore (Lwt) 5.72; 30 Shannon Williams (St Rich G) 5.58; 33 Ellie Blake (Bro M) 5.12; 34 Keeley Durham (Stan) 5.10; 36 Fiona McGuin (Stan) 5.07; 38 Mannon Cooper (Bro M) 4.94; 45 Siobhan Lewis (Bryn H) 3.95.

DT: 1 Ellis Auclas (St Cy) 17.50; 11 Rhian Bimford (Bro M) 14.02; 13 Shanella Evans (Lwt) 13.87; 15 Natasha Stait (Bryn H) 13.39; 18 Paige Jones (St Rich G) 12.27; 19 Caitlin Howells (Cow) 12.16; 23 Vicki Williams (Stan) 10.66.

JT: 1 Danielle Dakin-Weston (Lwt) 19.82; 2 Rachel Shalon (St Rich G) 18.29; 11 Georgina Wilson-Dixon (St Cy) 13.00; 18 Ailsa Jones (Stan) 10.65; 19 Ashley Williams (Bro M) 10.49; 20 Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 9.98; 22 Hannah Moore (Bryn H) 9.36.

Team: 4 Cowbridge 143; 7 Bro Morgannwg 108; 9 Llantwit 98; 11 St Richard Gwyn 66; 13 Stanwell 55; 14 Bryn Hafren 41; 15 St Cyres 35.

Report by Peter Morris

Photographs by Ian Dixon and Emma Williams

ABOVE: Winner Chelsea Siirak (Bro Morgannwg) in the 200m A final.

The C final of the girls' 70m hurdles with Amy Drew (Llantwit), Jessica Morgan (Bro Morgannwg) and Sophia Swaffield (St Richard Gwyn) among the competitors.

ABOVE: Harry Stubbington (Cowbridge, second in the javelin.

Chelsea Siirak (Bro Morgannwg) crosses the line first in the A 100m final but was later disqualified.

Gethin Evans-Cooper (Bro Morgannwg) won his 200m heat and finished fifth in a A final.

ABOVE: Erin Hayes (Llantwit) was second fastest in the 1,500m time trials.

Ben Brown (Llantwit) taking part in the shot competition, later won the 1,000m walk in a time just outside the event best.

Winner Danielle Dakin-Westton (Llantwit) in the javelin).

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23 August 2009

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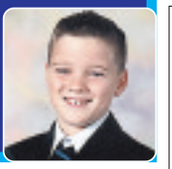

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Karate club believes in nurturing youngsters at the grass roots level

WITH more than 150 competitors from three of Wales' most successful Karate organisations converging on Barry's YMCA Hub on Sunday, a busy day was assured and the aim of developing talent and providing opportunities for tomorrow's champions was fulfilled.

The competition, hosted by Vale Karate chief instructor and head coach Rob Copeland, was a children's development event with more than 30 categories, catering for beginners to black belts from four to 13 years.

As well as children who train at Vale Karate's lunch-time and after-school classes, and at their various clubs in Barry, the Vale, Cardiff and the Valleys, formidable young squads from The Welsh Bushi-Kai and The Welsh Karate Union were also in attendance.

Vale Karate's Holton Primary lunchtime club members Matthew Way and Joanne Loe with Ryan Morris (Welsh Karate Union).

Under-10 medallists: Thomas Meredith, Patrick Coyle and Josh Dwyer.

The event's guest chief referee was The Welsh Karate Governing Body's vice-president Alan Prosser.

As is usual, the day started with the non-combat Kata categories.

The inaugural under-6 section and the categories for six and seven-year-olds were a revelation. The sight of children as young as four displaying competence, determination and focus was one of the highlights of the day, with Vale Karate's four-seven-year-olds who are known as 'The Tigers' in Barry, 'The Samurai' in Cardiff and 'The Dragons' in the Valleys, opening many eyes to the potential of children of this age.

As well as providing specific classes for children with special needs, the club has provided a competitive pathway for these youngsters by persuading many competition organisers to include special needs Kata events all over the UK.

Karate for those with disabilities and special needs takes a big step forward in 2009 as the British Championships will have four special needs Kata categories.

Ten youngsters took part in this category at this development event, with their displays earning them warm and well-earned applause.

Karate's young Kata squad members, among the best in Britain, and dominant in Wales, showed the spectators the standard that the hundreds of children who train with Vale Karate are eager to emulate.

As always, top drawer performances were given by Kloe Christoforato, Brook Peckham, Jessica Kinson, Hannah Gibbon, Bradley Christoforato, Sion Kinson and Nick Sherrin, all showing the spectators why so many open titles have come their way.

The Kumite events that followed were full of passion and tension, with the crowd cheering their favourites, and it was a sign of the friendship and respect that the three organisations share, and the discipline that is so important in traditional karate, that all decisions were accepted without question and with warm congratulations all round.

For the more experienced young competitors present, this was an ideal warm-up for one of the highlights of the domestic calendar, the Welsh Youth Open.

Under-9s enjoy tournament

BARRY Athletic under-9s played their third cricket tournament of the season.

Due to it being a re-arranged fixture at Radyr, it was especially difficult to raise a team, so a big thank you goes to Liam Kenny and Tomos Hubbard for helping us out.

Barry managed to win two league matches against Radyr and Lisvane and came a very close second in a match against a mixed under-11s and under-9s Radyr side, which really did test the Barry boys.

There were some great bowling displays, especially from Joel Merrick, Lewis Davies and Rhys Woolmer.

On the batting side, Calvin Fahey was solid in defence but also ensured we had runs on the board when opening each innings.

Finally, the man-of-the-match award was a very close call between Saul, Calvin and Lewis, but for his continuous effort, taking a couple of wickets, and hitting three boundaries in one game it went to Saul Robertson.

DW

BARRY STAGS CRICKET HIT BY MIXED RESULTS

First team stumble to defeat

BARRY Athletic CC 1st XI were under the new leadership of Nathan Baker as they played host to Ponthir.

Runs were hard to come by in the opening 10 overs, with Ponthir only on 24-0. Ponthir began to score freely, taking the score to 144-0 from 33 overs.

Wickets from Billy Usswald (3-44), Nathan Baker (4-75) and a run out meant Ponthir completed their innings on 236-8 from 50 overs.

Opening batsmen Lee Morgan and Billy Usswald looked comfortable in the first 10 overs. However, with the score only 26-0, there was a long way to go and a lot of hard graft was needed. The loss of Usswald kick-started a slide by the Stags.

Ian Gadd, Nathan Baker, Craig Thomas, Scott Malpas and Anjan Ganapathy were all soon back in the pavilion.

An impressive batting display by Lee Morgan (88) and a late cameo from Jophin Reji (30 not out) wasn't enough as they fell 42 runs short, dismissed for 194 in 49.3 overs.

This result wasn't good for Barry, as they slipped back to the bottom of Division Two. Fortunately, with a new system being introduced next season, there is no relegation.

Seconds crush Ponthir

MARTIN Baker's 2nd XI travelled to bottom of the table, Ponthir, needing a win to maintain their unbeaten run.

Ponthir had only managed to accumulate 10 batting points from 10 games, meaning that they weren't the strongest batting side in the league.

This showed and the bowling attack of Simon Phillips (8-1-16-0), Joe Myers (7-1-20-1), Maqsood Anwar (10-3-17-2), Martin Baker (6-2-10-2), Andy Ellis (8.3-1-17-3) and Ashley Baker (5-0-18-2), bowled Ponthir out for a miserable 108 from 44.3 overs.

Barry opening batsmen, Damon Leake and Owain Davies netted an opening partnership of 76, and the Stags were never in trouble.

However, Davies was trapped lbw for 34 and in came skipper Martin Baker. He and Leake took immediate control of the game and reached the target within 28 overs.

Leake finished on 42 not out and Baker finished on 11 not out.

Defeat for Thirds

BARRY Athletic 3rd XI, under the captaincy of Ian Gadd, travelled north to face Brecon.

The fine weather and dry pitch meant that Brecon won the toss and chose to bat first.

Wickets for Dominic Lack (9-0-32-2), Richie Roberts (10-0-38-3), Jophin Reji (5-1-14-2) and a run out from Ashley Baker, along with Callum Twomey (9-0-36-0) and Andy Ellis (7-2-9-0), helped the Stags to restrict Brecon to only 133-8 from their 40 overs.

The second innings began with Ashley Baker and Tom Ellis in the middle. The first casualty came when Baker skied the ball to deep square leg and was caught for 12.

Wickets kept tumbling afterwards as Barry went from 26-1 to 50-7, with Ian Gadd, Tom Ellis, John Phillips, Jophin Reji, Sam Eastman and Richie Roberts all back in the pavilion for low scores.

However, a partnership of 38 brought some respectability to Barry with Richard Eastman (11) and Andy Ellis, top scoring with 31. When Eastman and Ellis departed, a late cameo performance from Callum Twomey (10 not out) saw the team fall 24 runs short after being bowled out for 109.

A disappointing result for the Stags leaves them in the bottom half of the table with three games to play.

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GREENSLADE TAKES ANOTHER WELSH TITLE

BOWLING'S premier singles tournament, the Men's Open Singles Championship of Wales, produced a feast of high quality bowling recently.

In a record breaking year, host club Dinas Powys produced six of the eight quarter-finalists, two of the semi-finalists and the eventual winner – Jason Greenslade.

Jason continues to make the tournament his own, winning the coveted trophy for the eighth time, another record.

In a thrilling final, Jason defeated Hugh Morris of the Pontyclun club by 21-14 shots.

Earlier in the day, Hugh defeated two-times winner Neil Collett of the Penhill club, and Jason defeated fellow Dinas Powys bowler David Vowles.

Sunday's final was the climax of another successful week of high quality bowling at the Dinas Powys Open.

Thanks to all who entered the tournament and to the club members, both ladies and men, whose contribution in organising the tournament, and to the success of the week was again immense.

The club is most grateful to its sponsors, Spire Cardiff Hospital and 50-plus Insurance Services, and to the advertisers in the programme, without whose generous donations the tournament could not take place.

Special thanks must go to Clive and Kate Todd who organised the schedule of matches throughout the week with the professionalism that we have come to expect.

We look forward to another successful tournament in 2010.

AD

ABOVE:
The chair of the tournament committee, Philip Hanley, presents the winners trophy to Jason Greenslade.

JOY AT WELSH MASTERS FOR SCHOOL

More tournament success for Cadoxton Tae Kwon Do

CADOXTON Schools of Tae Kwon Do recently attended the third of a series of five Welsh masters tournaments, hosted by Mal Johns of WOMMA.

In her first tournament, Emily Stavert came away with second place in the point sparring. Hayley Mattey went one better by taking first, while Lucy Newman continued her improvement by taking third, this time in the pattern section.

Getting back into the tournament scene, Liam Rees showed that he had not lost any of his ability by completing a double – first in continuous and first in point sparring. Not to be outdone, Morgan Harrhy once again completed a double first in continuous and point sparring.

Bradley Halford took first place in continuous and second in point sparring. Morganne Gomez Jones took fourth in the pattern section. Morganne came up against a formidable Liverpool fighter in both the continuous and point sparring finals, taking second place in both categories.

Improving with every tournament, Matthew Rowles took third place in both the continuous and point sparring.

Also continuing her improvement, Charlotte Sullivan took third place in the point sparring.

Sixteen-year-old Jamie Halford came of age at this tournament, showing that all the extra training he is putting in getting ready for the World Games has paid off. Jamie had some of his hardest fights to date, eventually taking first in continuous and point sparring categories and second in weapons.

Having to wait all day for the adult categories to start, Jon Hawkins had three extremely hard fights in the men's continuous sparring, coming away with a well deserved victory.

Having just competed and with no rest, Jon was in action again in the point sparring. This time, an exhausted fighter took second place, not forgetting the third he achieved in the patterns.

Matthew Bennett, Thomas Haysham and Morgan Stavert Hawkins fought well, just missing out on the medals this time round, but it won't be long before they are on the medal rostrum.

The club are now looking forward to August, when they will be attending the World Games in Maryland, USA.

For further information and training time, telephone 01446 406372 or 07811 934079.

ABOVE (Left to right) BACK ROW: Jamie Halford, Morganne Gomez Jones, Emily Stavert, Jon Hawkins; MIDDLE ROW: Matthew Rowles, Morgan Harry, Liam Rees, Bradley Halford; FRONT ROW: Thomas Haysham, Charlotte Sullivan, Lucy Newman, Morgan Stavert Hawkins and Hayley Mattey (missing from the picture is Matthew Bennett).

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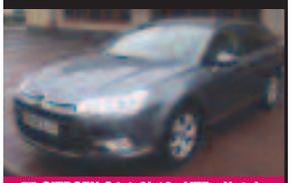

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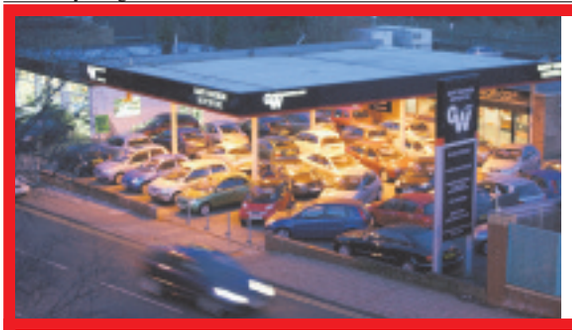

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155/70R13 Bridgestone B250	£40.87	£78	£150	155/70R13 Avon CR322	£34.48	£65	£125	155/70R13 Hero	£26.24	£50	£95
165/70R13 Bridgestone B250	£45.83	£87	£170	165/70R13 Avon CR322	£36.83	£68	£130	165/70R13 Hero	£27.71	£52	£100
175/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£57.79	£110	£210	175/70R14 Avon CR322	£45.37	£85	£160	175/70R14 Hero	£30.68	£58	£110
175/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£47.35	£90	£170	175/65R14 Avon CR322	£40.10	£75	£145	175/65R14 Federal	£32.34	£62	£120

PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £32.39

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
185/60HR14 Bridgestone ER300	£55.66	£105	£200	185/60HR14 Avon ZV3	£45.87	£87	£170	185/60HR14 Hero	£32.34	£62	£120
185/65HR14 Bridgestone B250	£63.83	£120	£230	185/65HR14 Avon ZV3	£50.51	£95	£185	185/65HR14 Hero	£33.21	£63	£120
185/65HR15 Bridgestone ER300	£73.84	£140	£270	185/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£54.84	£105	£200	185/65HR15 Hero	£36.65	£69	£132
195/65HR15 Bridgestone B250	£66.28	£125	£240	195/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£52.83	£99	£190	195/65HR15 Hero	£37.81	£71	£137

HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £35.82

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
195/50R15 Bridgestone ER300	£57.83	£99	£190	195/50R15 Avon ZV3	£45.83	£85	£160	195/50R15 Federal	£35.83	£68	£130
195/60R15 Bridgestone ER300	£68.71	£130	£250	195/60R15 Avon ZV3	£58.66	£112	£220	195/60R15 Federal	£40.38	£78	£150
195/65R15 Bridgestone ER300	£61.37	£115	£220	195/65R15 Avon ZV3	£51.34	£97	£195	195/65R15 Federal	£41.58	£79	£150
205/55VR16 Bridgestone ER300	£69.59	£135	£260	205/55VR16 Avon ZV3	£62.66	£120	£235	205/55VR16 Federal	£49.94	£95	£180

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Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
205/50WR16 Bridgestone ER300	£99.55	£190	£370	205/50WR16 Avon ZV5	£78.40	£149	£290	205/50WR16 Hero	£45.69	£86	£165
205/55WR16 Bridgestone ER300	£72.00	£137	£265	205/55WR16 Avon ZV5	£66.30	£128	£250	205/55WR16 Hero	£47.63	£90	£170
225/45WR17 Bridgestone RE050	£102.96	£195	£380	225/45WR17 XL Avon ZV5	£85.94	£165	£320	225/45WR17 XL Hero	£49.06	£95	£180
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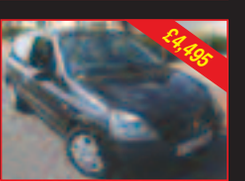
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04 **BMW X3 2.5 SE 5-dr.** Finished in ice blue met, **full black leather**, 20" chrome alloys, M-series body kit, a/c, radio/cd, pdc, 37k £13495
04 **BMW 530D SE (New Shape) (Diesel) Auto 4-dr.** Finished in mystic blue, **full black dakota leather**, alloys, a/c, radio/cd £11295
04 **FORD Sport Ka 1.6.** Finished in met. Grey with sports cloth trim, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 30k £3695
53 **VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.9 GT TDi (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 67k £6295
03 **MERCEDES ML 270 CDi (Diesel) Auto 5-dr.** Finished in met black with **full black leather,** alloys, a/c, radio/cd, chrome spare wheel carrier, 61k £11495
03 **MINI 1.6 Cooper.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cd multichanger, 46k £6995
52 **PEUGEOT 206 GTI 2.0 3-dr.** Finished in china blue met, **leather/suede interior**, pas, alloys, climate, cd £3995
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04 **VW SHARRAN 1.9TDi (Diesel) SE Auto.** Finished in met silver, alloys, climate, radio/cd, privacy glass, 7 seats, 75k £6995
04 **MAZDA 6 2.0D TS (Diesel) Estate.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cd, cruise control, 73k £5495
04 **PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDi (Diesel) S 5-dr Estate.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 66k £4995
03 **MERCEDES ML 270 CDi (Diesel) Auto 5-dr.** Finished in met black with **full black leather,** alloys, a/c, radio/cd, chrome spare wheel carrier, 61k £11495
03 **RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Fidji.** Finished in met silver, **half suede upholstery**, alloys, a/c, radio, cd, 47k £3295
02 **LAND ROVER Range Rover HSE 4.4 Auto 5-dr.** Finished in oslo blue with **full navy blenheim leather trim,** alloys, a/c, radio/cd, fsh, 87k £12695
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03 **ROVER 75 1.8T Club SE 4-dr.** Finished in met. blue, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, alloys £2995
02 **CITROEN C5 SX 2.0 HDi (Diesel) 110 5-dr.** Finished in white, alloys, a/c, radio,cd, 75k £2695

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GEM sport

Honours even (but only just!) after nail-biting Aberdare trip

COWBRIDGE TAIL HOLDS ON FOR MEMORABLE DRAW

ON Saturday, the 1st XI travelled to Aberdare for the first time in many years.

The home side was promoted to the second division last season and, like the Cowbridge XI this year, have struggled to come to terms with the standard required in this division.

Unfortunately, three vital first team players were absent this week including the skipper, so the team travelled away with a rather weakened side.

The overcast skies of Cowbridge gave way to low cloud and periods of drizzle throughout the afternoon at a ground surrounded by hills. The result was a damp outfield, which made things more difficult for batters, bowlers and even more so for the fielders.

Jon Smart, captain for the day, won the toss and put Aberdare in to bat, and a late start meant that the game was reduced to 43 overs a side. With life difficult for the fielders and a wet ball for the bowlers, the home side raced away at the beginning at a rate of five an over until eventually the first wicket fell on 43.

The introduction of James Thomas into the attack had an immediate effect as he bowled one of the opening batsmen in his first over.

Unfortunately, that was his, and the team's, only early success as the Aberdare batsmen moved quickly to 140 off 28 overs, when Adam Wood took the second wicket. Adam claimed another victim later and when 200 was reached, with no more batting points on offer, the home side declared, giving them five extra overs to bowl at the Cowbridge batsmen.

Nick Davies (1 for 47), Adam Wood (2 for 50), and James Thomas (1 for 55) were the only wicket takers, a poor bowling performance really, and the fielding was not a great deal better.

In the absence of Tom Merilaht, Mike Lloyd opened the batting with Elliot Swallow, and they endured a torrid time against accurate, quick bowling, with runs difficult to score.

Disappointingly, they only managed a partnership of 10 when Mike was caught, trying to force the pace, in the eighth over.

Elliot battled on until the 31st over when he was also caught for 29 hard-fought runs. Disappointingly, wickets fell continuously at the other end.

No batsman was able to reach double figures until Nick Davies came to the crease in the 15th over, when the side had collapsed to 22 for 5.

Nick stroked his way to 53 extremely useful runs while striking two huge sixes in the process. When he departed, the score was 109 with the team staring defeat fully in the face.

However, the tail, notably James Thomas who clung on for the last 10 overs surrounded by desperate fielders, salvaged a draw.

Again a drawn game, but only just. This situation has occurred far too frequently this season; sentiments echoed by Jon Smart in his comments after the game when he said: "This was a very disappointing performance. With the exception of Nick Davies' excellent innings there is nothing positive to be taken from it."

Next week, the 1st XI welcomes Maesteg Celtic Cricket Club to the Athletic Field. The Seconds travel. As usual, support is most welcome.

DL

Seconds secure a 10-man win

After last week's performance, Cowbridge 2nd XI were keen to continue their good form against Aberdare on Saturday.

The side, mixing youth and experience, warmly welcomed back Stuart Morton for his first game since a severe Achilles injury last season incapacitated him.

Captain Jonty Webb won the toss and asked Aberdare to bat on a typical Cowbridge wicket. Cowbridge struck first, the result of some good fielding, which brought about the run-out of the Aberdare opening batsman.

From that point, excellent bowling from Jamie Pursey and Chris Cox restricted the scoring rate. Both bowled brilliantly, giving the batsmen little to hit and, allied to good fielding, Aberdare were restricted to only 50 runs off their first 25 overs for the loss of three wickets.

At this stage, Aberdare clearly felt they needed to increase the run rate, but were hampered by further tight bowling from Harri Collier and Arvind Singhal. Harri again bowled superbly with flight and guile, which resulted in him returning figures of 15 overs, 1 for 35.

At the other end, Arvind, bowling intelligently with cleverly disguised slower balls, restricted the Aberdare batsmen while taking two wickets for very little. The weather subsequently turned sour, making life difficult for the Cowbridge bowlers but despite this, the team continued to bowl and field well, limiting Aberdare to 141 off their 50 overs.

The Cowbridge innings got off to a good start with openers Alastair Brace and Sam Wood looking assured and composed against the Aberdare attack. Sam again looked well set when he was out, unfortunately, with the score at 32. This brought Stuart Morton to the crease.

Belying the fact that Stuart had not played for more than a year, he looked at ease and he and Alastair pushed the scoring rate along. Alastair played excellently, but was finally out, having scored 30 valuable runs with the score at 63.

After that, wickets fell at regular intervals. However, Stuart continued to play sensibly, scoring heavily down the ground and running well between the wickets.

As Cowbridge crept towards the Aberdare total, Jamie Pursey joined Stuart. With eight wickets back in the pavilion, and with no small amount of tension, the pair saw Cowbridge home for a well-deserved victory. Stuart Morton finished on an excellent 83 not out.

With only 10 players, and against a more than competent opposition, this was a victory that Cowbridge should be proud of. Hopefully, this performance bodes well for the remaining games of the season.

JW

Town's bowlers are on song in cup and league

COWBRIDGE men bowlers had a good week, winning both their matches in the Munro Cup at home to Penarth RR.

They had a good win against a strong side by 85-65 shots.

Ron Frayling's rink of Mansel Davey, Derek Woolley and Brian Williams had a very close game and just won 19-18; but Dennis Snelling's rink of Eric Sewell, Mick Davey and Steve Dickens won well 22-12, as did Norman Wilkinson's rink of Terry Dunsworth, Colin Wilson and John Trott, winning 28-17.

The only losing rink was Byron Richards', but only just by 16-18.

In the league game at home to Cadoxton, in a relegation battle, the men won well 101-66 for 12 much-needed points.

Roger Barwick's rink won very well 44-11, with a lot of help from Ron Frayling, John Trott and Michael Bradley.

Norman Wilkinson's rink also won well 24-15, other rink members being Terry Dunsworth, Steve Dickens and John Jones.

The best game was on David Jones' rink, who were losing 17-20 with two ends to go, but picked up five shots to win 22-20.

David was well supported by Mansel Davey, Len Taylor and Brian Kent.

Dennis Snelling's rink of Colin Wilson, Brian Williams and Byron Richards lost 11-20.

There is just one league match remaining now to pick up some much-needed points, away to Penyrheol.

The ladies had two away matches in Porthcawl, winning one and losing one.

In the CCS at Porthcawl Newtonians, they had a good win 57-39. Joy Woolford's rink of Diane Purnell, Thelma Jones and Joan Bradley won 29-10.

Shirley Wilkinson's rink also won, 20-13 with Helena Snelling, Marje Smith and Sue Flower.

Captain Pauline McAllen was the losing rink 8-16. Other members of her rink were Mary Thomas, Kay Edwards and May Jones.

In another CCS match, this time at Porthcawl Prince of Wales, they lost 36-56.

Rink scores: Janet Legge's rink lost 12-14; Anne Jarvis' rink lost 14-22; and Shirley Wilkinson's rink lost 10-20.

NJW

Cowbridge clinch schools championship at Hickstead!

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive show jumping team's long journey to Hickstead proved to be very successful.

The team arrived at Hickstead on Tuesday, August 4, and settled the ponies down for the next day's competitions. Louise, Josh and Bethan walked the course with coach Martyn Edwards on Tuesday evening and again on Wednesday morning.

They were the 40th team in the competition, which meant they didn't jump until 12pm.

A total of 67 teams from around Britain were there, and only 10 teams qualify for the final in the main arena. The course was over 10 jumps.

Cowbridge jumped with a score of four faults. They had to wait until 3pm to know whether they would qualify for the final.

Six teams went clear in the first round, which meant the six teams on four faults had to jump off for the four remaining places.

One rider from the teams was chosen to jump off against the clock, and the fastest times would qualify.

Josh Rees on his pony *Sunburst* was chosen for Cowbridge; they were second fastest and this meant the team qualified for the final.

It was a quick turnaround, and the team quickly walked the course with trainer Martyn Edwards in the main Hickstead arena.

Louise Edwards on *Mryddin* was Cowbridge's first rider and first team to start with a clear round. The first rider for Stonar school went clear. At this stage, Cowbridge and Stonar were the only clears.

Josh Rees and *Sunburst* went clear, so the pressure was on for the other teams. Stonar again had their second rider go clear.

ABOVE: The Cowbridge Comprehensive showjumping team

Bethan Allman on *Murvy Mccoy* was Cowbridge's last rider and with another fantastic round finished on a clear score.

Stonar had to pull out all the stops, but their last rider had a fence down which meant that Cowbridge were the champions.

It was a fantastic experience for the team. After the parade, they were whisked off for a press conference with local radio station and journalists.

Team captain, Louise Edwards, said: "We were a good team, very supportive of each other, and to jump in the Hickstead Arena was something else, an experience I think all of us will not forget in a hurry."

The team would like to thank all their sponsors – Owen Fuels, CS Boxall Ltd, Glamorgan Farm Supplies and Red Miles horse feeds.

The team was also grateful for their lucky mascot, Glan Williams, who made the long journey to support them and perhaps he now understands the sport of show jumping a little better!

Deano and Tim at the double

COWBRIDGE jockey Deano Coleman's long journey to Market Rasen on Saturday paid off handsomely when he landed a double for Aberthin trainer Tim Vaughan on *Zafar* and *DarkSideofTheMoon*.

Both horses were well backed and the top-weighted *Zafar* came home three lengths ahead of *Sadler's King* and seven-year-old *DarkSideOftheMoon* scored by three lengths from *Amalfi Coast*.

Earlier in the day at Bangor Racecourse in north Wales, Vaughan had saddled the German-bred *Walamo* to take the opening hurdle race and *Shanahan* to win the handicap chase.

Luck was on Vaughan's side as the former won by a head and the latter by a neck. Both were ridden by stable jockey Richard Johnson and Vaughan was completing a four-timer for the second time this season.

At Sunday's Southwell meeting, Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams took the Southwell Gold Club Claiming Hurdle race with *Super Ross* ridden by Donal Fahy.

BRIAN LEE

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'Friendly' start to season for Cowbridge rugby

WITH the start of league programme less than three weeks away, Cowbridge warm up with two friendly fixtures over the next fortnight.

This Saturday we travel to Bryncethin, kick-off 2.30pm. Coach Phil Ager will be keen to see if the hard work put in over the last few months in training translates onto the pitch. Please contact the club for transport details.

The following Saturday, it's Llantwit Major away – a match that is sure to attract a lot of interest. All support for both games is more than welcome.

The league starts in earnest on September 5 with a home game against St Albans, followed by an away game on the 12th against newcomers Blackwood Stars.

On September 19, we entertain Canton and then it's away again on the 26th to Cefn Coed.

The Youth season is planned to start on the 29th at Llantwit Major as a curtain raiser for the Firsts' match.

This is followed on September 5 with a District Cup match against Dinas Powys.

The league does not start until October, but there are more friendlies in the pipeline.

The women kick off the season with a home game against Waunarlwydd on Sunday, September 13, followed by a visit to Kidwelly on Sunday, September 20.

So, a busy start to the season. All teams appreciate the support they get and the more on the touchline, the greater the encouragement for the teams, so let's give them all the support we can this season.

As always, new players are more than welcome. We badly need to run a regular second XV this season, so if you think you can contribute to the club, please come to training or pop down the club on Thursdays or Saturdays for a chat – we need more players!

RV/RK